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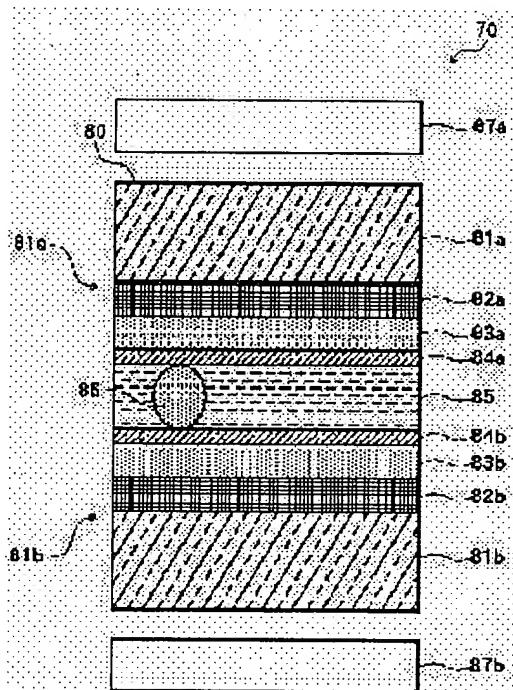
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(54) LIQUID CRYSTAL ELEMENT AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DEVICE EQUIPPED WITH THE SAME

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a liquid crystal element, having stable alignment and high contrast, and to obtain a liquid crystal device equipped with this element.

SOLUTION: A chiral smectic liquid crystal 85 having such characteristics is held between a pair of substrates 81a, 81b. The substrates 81a, 81b are subjected to uniaxial alignment treatment to give an alignment state which forms a stripe texture in the liquid crystal 85. The liquid crystal 85 shows a monostable first state with the average molecular axis of the director of the liquid crystal molecules is present only in one direction, when no voltage is applied. When the voltage of one polarity is applied, the average molecular axis of the liquid crystal is tilted to one side from the monostable position at an angle according to the intensity of the applied voltage, and the liquid crystal displays an image with the first brightness. When the voltage in the polarity opposite to the first polarity is applied, the average molecular axis of the liquid crystal maintains monostable position or is tilted from the monostable position to the opposite side to the side when the voltage in the first polarity is applied, and the liquid crystal



displays the image with a second brightness lower than the first brightness.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the thing especially using chiral smectic liquid crystal about liquid crystal equipment equipped with the liquid crystal device and this which are used for a flat-panel display, a projection display, a printer, etc.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Conventionally, in the pneumatic liquid crystal component, development of the liquid crystal device called active matrix which has arranged an active element like a thin film transistor (TFT) to each pixel is performed.

[0003] And they are for example, em shut (M-Schadt) and the W. Helfrich (W-Helfrich) work Applied as the mode of the nematic liquid crystal used for this active-matrix type of liquid crystal device now. The 18th volume of PhysicsLetters and the Twisted Nematic (Twisted Nematic) mode shown in 128 pages from the 127th page of the 4 No. (February 15, 1971 issue) are used widely.

[0004] Moreover, recently, the in plane switching (In-Plain Switching) mode in which the longitudinal direction electrical potential difference was used is announced, and the improvement of the angle-of-visibility property which was the fault of a twisted nematic type LCD is made. In addition, there is super-twisted-nematic (Super TwistedNematic) mode as an example of representation of the pneumatic liquid crystal component which, in addition to this, does not use active elements, such as TFT mentioned above.

[0005] By the way, in this way, the liquid crystal device using a pneumatic liquid crystal had the fault that several ten or more mses of speed of responses of liquid crystal will be applied in any case in the mode, although various modes existed. Then, the component (SSFLC/Surface Stabilized FLC) liquid crystal indicates bistability nature to be is proposed by Clerks (Clark) and Lagerwall (Lagerwall) as what improves the fault of the pneumatic liquid crystal component of such a conventional type (JP,56-107216,A, U.S. Pat. No. 4367924 specification).

[0006] Here, as liquid crystal in which this bistability nature is shown, the ferroelectric liquid crystal in which a chiral smectic C phase is generally shown is used. And since an electrical potential difference acts on the spontaneous polarization of a liquid crystal molecule in the case of electrical-potential-difference impression and reversal switching of a molecule is made, this ferroelectric liquid crystal can make the bistability condition which a very quick speed of response is obtained upwards, and has memory nature discover. Furthermore, it is thought that it is suitable as the display device or light valve of a high speed, a high definition, and a large area since this liquid crystal is excellent also in the angle-of-visibility property.

[0007] Moreover, recently, the antiferroelectricity liquid crystal which liquid crystal shows 3 stability condition attracts attention. And like [this antiferroelectricity liquid crystal] a ferroelectric liquid crystal, since reversal switching of a molecule is made according to the operation to the spontaneous polarization of a liquid crystal molecule, a very quick speed of response is obtained. Furthermore, in order that this liquid crystal ingredient may take the molecular arrangement structure where spontaneous

polarization with a mutual liquid crystal molecule is mutually negated at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, in the condition of not impressing an electrical potential difference, it has been the description that spontaneous polarization does not exist.

[0008] In addition, each of ferroelectric liquid crystals which perform reversal switching by such spontaneous polarization, and antiferroelectricity liquid crystal is liquid crystal in which a chiral smectic liquid crystal phase is shown. That is, in the semantics that the trouble about the speed of response which the pneumatic liquid crystal was holding conventionally is solvable, implementation of the liquid crystal device using a smectic liquid crystal is expected.

[0009]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, although the smectic liquid crystal which has spontaneous polarization on the display of the next generation, such as high-speed response engine performance, etc. in this way was expected, it was difficult to realize a gradation display within 1 pixel theoretically especially in the mode using an above-mentioned congruence stability condition or three stable states.

[0010] In addition, as the mode in which gradation control is performed using the liquid crystal in which a chiral smectic phase is shown, although "a short pitch type ferroelectric liquid crystal", a "macromolecule stability mold ferroelectric liquid crystal", "non-threshold antiferroelectricity liquid crystal", etc. are proposed, there is that [no] to which all have resulted in sufficient level for practical use in recent years.

[0011] Then, we have invented and proposed the component (henceforth a prior component) indicated by the Japanese-Patent-Application-No. No. 177145 [ten to] list at Japanese Patent Application No. No. 177146 [ten to]. He is trying for this prior component to make the average molecule location of the liquid crystal at the time of no electric-field impressing make it monostable for example, from an elevated-temperature side here in the location of the edge (or that inside) of a virtual cone paying attention to the ingredient of a phase sequence in which an isotropic liquid phase (ISO.)-cholesteric phase (Ch)-chiral smectic C phase (SmC*) or an isotropic liquid phase (ISO.)-chiral smectic C phase (SmC*) is show.

[0012] And the one direction was made to equalize the direction of a layer by impressing DC electrical potential difference of one of positive/negative between the substrates of a pair, for example in the case of I phase (ISO.)-SmC* phase transition in the case of Ch-SmC* phase transition etc., thereby, a high-speed response and gradation control are possible, and the liquid crystal device of high brightness excellent in the quality of an animation is realized with high mass-production nature.

[0013] However, the height of process-difficulty is held in controlling it to uniform orientation over the whole panel surface, although a prior component has such an outstanding description, and the technique for orientation stabilization is searched for.

[0014] Then, this invention is made in view of such the present condition, and aims at offering the liquid crystal equipment with which orientation was equipped with the liquid crystal device of stable and high contrast, and this.

[0015]

[Means for Solving the Problem] While this invention pinches chiral smectic liquid crystal and it has the active component connected to the electrode and this electrode which impress an electrical potential difference to this liquid crystal The substrate of a pair with which uniaxial orientation processing for carrying out orientation of this liquid crystal to one [at least] opposed face was performed, In the liquid crystal device which performs an analog gradation display when an active-matrix drive is carried out by the drive circuit which is equipped with the polarizing plate arranged at one [at least] substrate side, and drives said active component While said chiral smectic liquid crystal shows the first condition that the average molecule shaft of liquid crystal part remaining cartridge REKUTA of this liquid crystal may exist only in an one direction in the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing and of having been made monostable At the time of the first polar electrical-potential-difference impression, carry out the tilt of the average molecule shaft of this liquid crystal to one side from said location made monostable at the include angle according to the magnitude of applied voltage, and an image is.

expressed as the first brightness. [whether with said first polarity, the average molecule shaft of this liquid crystal maintains this location made monostable at the time of the second polar electrical-potential-difference impression of reversed polarity, and] Or when said first polar electrical potential difference is impressed from this location made monostable, while carrying out a tilt and expressing an image to a reverse side as the second brightness smaller than the first brightness, it is characterized by being in the orientation condition in which the stripe texture was formed.

[0016] Moreover, this invention is characterized by said second brightness being smaller than one fifth of said first brightness.

[0017] Moreover, this invention is characterized by the phase sequence of said liquid crystal being an isotropic liquid phase-cholesteric phase-chiral smectic C phase or an isotropic liquid phase-chiral smectic C phase from an elevated-temperature side.

[0018] Moreover, this invention is characterized by performing uniaxial orientation processing which produces the orientation restraining force in which said liquid crystal forms said stripe texture.

[0019] Moreover, this invention is characterized by the gap with the uniaxial orientation processing direction of said substrate and the average longitudinal direction of said stripe texture being 10 degrees or less.

[0020] Moreover, this invention is characterized by distribution of the direction of liquid crystal part remaining cartridge REKUTA in the stripe texture at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [said] being less than **10 degrees to the average molecule shaft orientations of the whole component.

[0021] Moreover, this invention is characterized by the gap with the average longitudinal direction of said stripe texture and the direction of a smectic layer normal being 5 degrees or more.

[0022] Moreover, this invention is characterized by the layer tilt angles of the ***** of the chiral smectic C phase of said liquid crystal and the substrate normal which were obtained by X diffraction measurement to make being 10 degrees or more and less than 35 degrees.

[0023] Moreover, this invention is characterized by the X diffraction full width at half maximum obtained by said X diffraction measurement being 3 degrees or more about said layer tilt angle.

[0024] Moreover, the spiral pitch in the bulk condition of said liquid crystal is characterized twice cel thickness by the ***** by this invention.

[0025] Moreover, this invention is characterized by performing said gradation display by total of the area of two or more minute fields which has the ellipse or the rectangle configuration where the thresholds discovered when said first polar electrical potential difference is impressed to said liquid crystal differ.

[0026] Moreover, this invention is characterized by making said first polar electrical potential difference into the magnitude from which the smallest unit of said minute field is set to 10 micrometers or less of a minor axis.

[0027] Moreover, this invention is liquid crystal equipment characterized by having the drive circuit which drives a liquid crystal device given in any of claims 1-12 they are, and said active component.

[0028] Moreover, while the first condition that the average molecule shaft of liquid crystal part remaining cartridge REKUTA of liquid crystal may exist only in an one direction in the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing and of having been made monostable is shown like this invention At the time of the first polar electrical-potential-difference impression, carry out the tilt of the average molecule shaft of liquid crystal to one side from the location made monostable at the include angle according to the magnitude of applied voltage, and an image is expressed as the first brightness.

[whether with the first polarity, the average molecule shaft of liquid crystal maintains the location made monostable at the time of the second polar electrical-potential-difference impression of reversed polarity, and] Or the chiral smectic liquid crystal which carries out a tilt and displays an image on a reverse side as the time of impressing the first polar electrical potential difference from the location made monostable by the second brightness smaller than the first brightness is pinched with the substrate of a pair. Furthermore, uniaxial orientation processing is performed so that this liquid crystal may be in the orientation condition in which the stripe texture was formed.

[0029]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained.

[0030] Drawing 1 is the sectional view showing the structure of liquid crystal equipment equipped with the liquid crystal device concerning the gestalt of operation of this invention, and it is the liquid crystal device currently fastened between polarizing plate 87a of the pair, as for 70, liquid crystal equipment crossed perpendicularly, and, as for 80, the pair and the polarization shaft crossed at right angles mutually, and 87b in this drawing. And this liquid crystal device 80 is pinching the liquid crystal which presents a chiral smectic phase between substrates which consist of ingredient with high transparency, such as glass [of a pair], and plastics, 81a, and 81b.

[0031] Here, the electrodes 82a and 82b which become these substrates 81a and 81b from ingredients, such as In 2O3 for impressing an electrical potential difference to liquid crystal 85, respectively and ITO, are formed for example, in the shape of a stripe, and these cross mutually and form matrix electrode structure (passive matrix). In addition, it is desirable to arrange a dot-like transparent electrode in the shape of a matrix to a substrate so that while may mention later, to connect switching elements, such as TFT and MIM (Metal-Insulator-Metal), to each transparent electrode, to prepare the counterelectrode of the whole surface top of the substrate of another side or a predetermined pattern, and to make it active-matrix structure.

[0032] moreover, SiO2 which has the function of preventing these short-circuit if needed on this electrode 82a and 82b, TiO2, and Ta 2O5 etc. -- the insulator layers 83a and 83b which consist of an ingredient are formed, respectively, further, on insulator layer 83a and 83b, liquid crystal 85 is touched and the orientation control film 84a and 84b which functions in order to control that orientation condition is formed.

[0033] Here, uniaxial orientation processing is performed to at least one side of these orientation control film 84a and 84b. In addition, these orientation control film 84a and 84b consists of method vacuum evaporationo film of slanting of the inorganic material which vapor-deposited oxides, such as a thing which performed rubbing processing, or SiO, and a nitride from across at an angle of predetermined to the substrate on the front face of the film which carried out solution coating of the organic materials, such as polyimide, polyimidoamide, a polyamide, and polyvinyl alcohol.

[0034] Furthermore, about these orientation control film 84a and 84b, the pre tilt angle (include angle made to a film surface near the orientation control film interface of a liquid crystal molecule) of the molecule of liquid crystal 85 is adjusted according to the conditions of selection of that ingredient, and processings (uniaxial orientation processing etc.) etc.

[0035] Moreover, when the orientation control film 84a and 84b is film with which uniaxial orientation processing was made by each, it can set up so that it may cross parallel, anti-parallel, or in 45 degrees or less according to the liquid crystal ingredient using the uniaxial orientation processing direction (especially the direction of rubbing) of each film.

[0036] Moreover, Substrates 81a and 81b have countered through a spacer 86. This spacer 86 determines the distance between Substrates 81a and 81b (cel gap), and a silica bead etc. is used.

[0037] Although the optimal range and a upper limit change with differences in a liquid crystal ingredient here about the cel gap determined by this spacer 86, it is desirable to set it as the range of 0.3-10 micrometers in order to make uniform uniaxial orientation nature and the orientation condition which sets the same the shaft of the average direction of an orientation processing shaft as the average molecule shaft of a liquid crystal molecule substantially mostly at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing discover.

[0038] In addition, the adhesion particle which consists of resin ingredients, such as an epoxy resin, etc. can also be distributed in order to raise the adhesive property between substrate 81a and 81b in addition to a spacer 86 and to raise the shock resistance of the liquid crystal 85 in which a chiral smectic phase is shown (not shown).

[0039] On the other hand by such liquid crystal device 80, liquid crystal 85 By adjusting the presentation of the ingredient and setting up suitably the ingredient of processing of a liquid crystal ingredient or the component configuration 84a and 84b, for example, orientation control film,

processing conditions, etc. further, in the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing The orientation condition that the average molecule shaft (liquid crystal molecule) of liquid crystal is made monostable is shown. Whenever [on the basis of the location where an average molecule shaft is made monostable according to the magnitude of applied voltage at the time of one polar (the first polarity) electrical-potential-difference impression in the time of a drive / tilt angle] changes continuously. At the time of polar (the second polarity) electrical-potential-difference impression of another side, the average molecule shaft of liquid crystal shows a property which maintains the location made monostable or carries out a tilt at the include angle according to the magnitude of applied voltage.

[0040] In addition, in the gestalt of this operation, liquid crystal 85 shows the property that the direction of whenever [by the first polar electrical-potential-difference impression / maximum tilt angle] becomes larger than whenever [by the second polar electrical-potential-difference impression / maximum tilt angle].

[0041] By the way, in the liquid crystal equipment 70 concerning the gestalt of this operation, the property that prepare the drive circuit which supplies a gradation signal to the liquid crystal device 80 shown in drawing 1, and change of whenever [from the monostable location of the average molecule shaft of liquid crystal / continuous tilt angle] and the outgoing radiation quantity of light from a liquid crystal device 80 change with impression of an electrical potential difference which was mentioned already continuously is used, and it constitutes so that a gradation display may be performed.

[0042] For example, the analog gradation display is enabled using the active-matrix substrate equipped with TFT which was mentioned already as one substrate of a liquid crystal device 80 by performing the active-matrix drive by amplitude modulation in a drive circuit.

[0043] Next, the gradation display using such a active-matrix substrate is explained using drawing 2 and drawing 3.

[0044] As drawing 2 is drawing having shown typically the configuration of one substrate (active-matrix substrate) of a liquid crystal device 80 and it is shown in this drawing The horizontal gate lines G1, G2, --, G5 which are equivalent to the scanning line connected with the scan signal driver 91 which is a driving means in the panel section 90 equivalent to a liquid crystal device, It is prepared so that it may intersect perpendicularly, where the source lines S1, S2, --, S5 of the vertical direction equivalent to the information signal line connected with the information signal driver 92 which is a driving means are insulated mutually.

[0045] Furthermore, these gates lines G1, G2, --, G5 and the source line S1, S2 --, the thin film transistor (TFT) 94 that is equivalent to a switching element corresponding to the pixel of S5 each intersection, and the pixel electrode 95 are formed (this drawing shows only a 5x5-pixel field for simplification). In addition, an MIM component besides TFT can also be used as a switching element.

[0046] Moreover, the gate lines G1, G2, --, G5 are connected to the gate electrode (not shown) of TFT94, the source lines S1, S2, --, S5 are connected to the source electrode (not shown) of TFT94, and the pixel electrode 15 is connected to the drain electrode (not shown) of TFT94.

[0047] And while scan selection of the gate lines G1, G2, --, G5 is made by the scan signal driver 91 for example, line sequential and gate voltage is supplied in the substrate of such a configuration Synchronizing with scan selection of these gate lines G1, G2, --, G5, from the information signal driver 92, the information signal electrical potential difference according to the information written in each pixel is supplied to the source lines S1, S2, --, S5, and is impressed to each pixel electrode 15 through TFT94.

[0048] It is drawing showing an example of the cross-section structure of each pixel part (1 bit) in a panel configuration as shows drawing 3 to drawing 2 on the other hand, and between the active-matrix substrate 20 equipped with TFT94 and the pixel electrode 95, and the opposite substrate 40 equipped with the common electrode 32, the liquid crystal layer 49 which has spontaneous polarization is pinched, and the liquid crystal capacity (C1c) 31 consists of structures shown in this drawing. In addition, in this active-matrix substrate 20, the amorphous silicon TFT is used as TFT94.

[0049] This TFT94 is formed here on the substrate 21 which consists of glass etc. The a-Si layer 24 is formed through the insulator layer (gate dielectric film) 23 which consists of ingredients, such as silicon

nitride (SiNx), on the gate electrode 22 linked to the gate lines G1, G2, --, G5 shown in drawing 2. On this a-Si layer 24, through the n+a-Si layers 25 and 26, the source electrode 27 and the drain electrode 28 estrange mutually, and are prepared, respectively.

[0050] In addition, it connected with the source lines S1, S2, --, S5 shown in drawing 2, and the source electrode 27 has connected the drain electrode 28 to the pixel electrode 95 which consists of transparency electric conduction film, such as ITO film. Moreover, the channel protective coat 29 has covered the a-Si layer 24 top in TFT94. Furthermore, in the period when scan selection of the corresponding gate line was made, a gate pulse will be impressed to the gate electrode 22, and this TFT94 will be in an ON state.

[0051] Retention volume (CS) 32 is formed in the forms of the liquid crystal layer 49 and juxtaposition according to the structure which, on the other hand, pinched the insulator layer 23 (the insulator layer on the gate electrode 22, and film prepared for the continuation target) in the active-matrix substrate 20 with the pixel electrode 95 and the retention volume electrode 30 prepared in the glass substrate 21 side. In addition, since a numerical aperture falls when that area is large, this retention volume electrode 30 is formed with transparency electric conduction film, such as ITO film.

[0052] Moreover, on TFT94 of the active-matrix substrate 20, and the pixel electrode 95, orientation film 43a to which uniaxial orientation processing of rubbing processing etc. for controlling the orientation condition of liquid crystal 49 was performed is prepared, and the laminating of the common electrode 42 and the orientation film 43b is carried out by the same thickness as the whole surface on the glass substrate 41 of the opposite substrate 40. In addition, in a panel configuration as shown in drawing 2 and drawing 3, the substrate equipped with polycrystal Si(p-Si) TFT can be used as a active-matrix substrate 20.

[0053] Next, the active-matrix drive which used the property in the liquid crystal device of the above-mentioned structure with reference to drawing 4 and drawing 5 is described. In addition, drawing 4 shows the equal circuit of the pixel part of the panel shown in drawing 3. Moreover, drawing 5 is drawing showing the applied voltage and the optical response which drive a liquid crystal device.

[0054] By the way, he divides the period (one frame) for displaying the information set, for example to 1 pixel into two or more fields (for example, 1F and 2F which are shown in drawing 5), and is trying to obtain the outgoing radiation quantity of light according to predetermined information on the average in the these 2 field in the active-matrix drive in the gestalt of this operation.

[0055] The example divided into the 2 fields in case the liquid crystal layer 49 is transmitted light reinforcement sufficient by one polar electrical-potential-difference impression and the property which is 1/5 or less in the gestalt of transmitted light reinforcement smaller than it and this operation in reversed polarity is shown hereafter is explained.

[0056] Here, when drawing 5 (a) pays its attention to 1 pixel, it shows the electrical potential difference impressed to 1 gate line used as the scanning line which *** to the pixel concerned. And in the liquid crystal device of the above-mentioned structure, as mentioned already, the gate lines G1, G2, --, G5 will be chosen for example, by line sequential for every field, in a selection period T_{on} , the predetermined gate voltage V_g will be impressed to 1 gate line, an electrical potential difference V_g will join the gate electrode 22, and TFT94 will be in an ON state.

[0057] In addition, an electrical potential difference does not join the gate electrode 22 at the non-selection period T_{off} equivalent to the period when other gate lines are chosen, but TFT12 will be in a high resistance condition (OFF state), the same predetermined gate line is chosen for every T_{off} by this, and gate voltage V_g is impressed to the gate electrode 22.

[0058] Drawing 5 (b) shows the electrical potential difference V_s impressed to the information signal line (source line) of the pixel concerned. And as drawing 5 (a) shows, when gate voltage is impressed to the gate electrode 22 in a selection period T_{on} in each field, the predetermined source electrical potential difference (information signal electrical potential difference) V_s (let a reference potential be the potential V_c of the common electrode 42) is impressed to the source electrode 27 from the source lines S1, S2, --, S5 used as the information line which connects with the pixel concerned synchronizing with this.

[0059] Here, in the first field (1F) which constitutes one frame, the source electrical potential difference (information signal electrical potential difference) of the straight polarity of the level V_x according to the optical condition or display information (transmission) which it is going to acquire by the pixel concerned based on the electrical-potential-difference-transmission property according to the information written in the pixel concerned, for example, the liquid crystal to be used, is impressed.

[0060] Since TFT94 is an ON state at this time, the electrical potential difference V_x impressed to the above-mentioned source electrode 27 is impressed to the pixel electrode 95 through the drain electrode 28, charge is made by the liquid crystal capacity (C1c) 31 and retention volume (Cs) 32, and the potential of a pixel electrode becomes the information signal electrical potential difference V_x .

[0061] Then, since the gate line by which the pixel concerned belongs sets non-selection period T_{off} and TFT94 serves as high resistance (OFF state), to this non-selection period, the condition that the charge charged in the selection period T_{on} was accumulated in a liquid crystal cell (liquid crystal capacity C1c) 31 and retention volume (Cs) 32 is maintained, and an electrical potential difference V_x is held. the liquid crystal layer [in / by this / the pixel concerned] 49 -- the 1st -- an electrical potential difference V_x is impressed through the period of field 1F, and the optical condition (the amount of transmitted lights) according to this electrical-potential-difference value is acquired in the liquid crystal part which is the pixel concerned.

[0062] On the other hand, at this time, when the speed of response of liquid crystal is slower than a gate "on" period, charge is completed to a liquid crystal cell (liquid crystal capacity C1c) 31 and retention volume (Cs) 32, and switching is started at the non-selection period when the gate was turned off. And in such a case, the charge charged by reversal of spontaneous polarization is offset and the value V_x' with the electrical-potential-difference value V_{pix} smaller than V_x impressed to the liquid crystal layer 49 like drawing 5 (c) is taken.

[0063] Next, in the selection period T_{on} of the second field (2F), the source electrical potential difference (- V_x) which a polarity is reverse and has the same electrical-potential-difference value V_x substantially is impressed to the source electrode 27 in the first field 1F. At this time, TFT94 is an ON state and it is an electrical potential difference to the pixel electrode 95. - V_x is impressed, charge is made by the liquid crystal capacity (C1c) 31 and retention volume (Cs) 32, and the potential of a pixel electrode is an information signal electrical potential difference. - It is set to V_x .

[0064] Then, the condition that the charge charged in the selection period T_{on} was accumulated in this non-selection period with a liquid crystal cell (liquid crystal capacity C1c) 31 and retention volume (Cs) 32 since TFT94 served as high resistance (OFF state) in the non-selection period T_{off} is maintained, and it is an electrical potential difference. - V_x is held.

[0065] And it lets the 2nd field 2F period pass in the liquid crystal layer 49 in the pixel concerned, and is an electrical potential difference. - V_x is impressed and the optical condition (outgoing radiation quantity of light) according to this electrical-potential-difference value is acquired in the pixel concerned. Also at this time, similarly, when the speed of response of liquid crystal is slower than a gate "on" period, charge is completed to a liquid crystal cell (liquid crystal capacity C1c) 31 and retention volume (Cs) 32, and switching is started at the non-selection period when the gate was turned off.

[0066] In such a case, the electrical-potential-difference value V_{pix} which the charge charged by reversal of spontaneous polarization is offset and is impressed to the liquid crystal layer 49 like drawing 5 (c) is smaller than - V_x . - The value V_x' is taken.

[0067] on the other hand, it is shown in (d) -- as -- the first -- in field 1F, the gradation display condition (outgoing radiation quantity of light) according to V_x obtains -- having -- the second -- in field 2F, although the gradation display condition according to - V_x' is acquired, only change of the amount of transmitted lights is obtained only in fact, but the amount of transmitted lights is small and serves as T_y near 0 level from T_x .

[0068] by the way, in such a active-matrix drive When the liquid crystal in which a chiral smectic phase is shown is used, while the gradation display based on good high-speed responsibility is attained, by 1 pixel the first which obtains the high amount of transmitted lights for the gradation display of a certain level -- the second which obtains field 1F and the low amount of transmitted lights -- in order to divide

into field 2F and to carry out continuously, a time amount numerical aperture becomes 50% or less, and the animation high-speed response characteristic which human being's eyes sense also becomes good. moreover, the second -- since the amount of transmitted lights is not completely set to 0 by the switching operation of the some of a liquid crystal molecule in field 2F, the brightness sensed for the eyes of human being in the whole frame period is secured.

[0069] An image is formed from field 2F. thus, the first of high brightness (the first brightness) -- field 1F and the second of low brightness (the second brightness) -- It is displaying the image of the same contents substantially, although brightness' differs in both [these] the fields 1F and 2F, respectively. Human being can get the dynamic image sensed as a high speed, and animation display which does not spoil the brightness of a display device greatly by setup of 0 or the field of low brightness can be realized.

[0070] Furthermore, since the electrical potential difference of the same level inverts in the first and the second field 1F and 2F and it is impressed by the liquid crystal layer 49, the electrical potential difference actually impressed to the liquid crystal layer 49 is alternating-current-ized, and degradation of liquid crystal is prevented.

[0071] furthermore, in the above-mentioned active-matrix drive Since the amount of transmitted lights which averaged Tx and Ty in one frame in the whole which consists of the 2 fields is obtained, about the information signal electrical potential difference Vs If only predetermined level chooses the electrical-potential-difference value which can obtain the big amount of transmitted lights and it is made to actually impress it according to the image information (gradation information) which it is going to obtain by the pixel concerned with the frame concerned In first field 1F, the gradation condition in the amount of level transmitted lights higher than a desired gradation condition can also be displayed.

[0072] In addition, the gradation display by this active-matrix drive It has the substrates 81a and 81b of translucency as shown in drawing 1, and the polarizing plates 87a and 87b of a pair. The light by which incidence was carried out from one substrate side with the non-illustrated back light is modulated. The reflective mold liquid crystal device which prepared the polarizing plate in one [not only the transparency mold liquid crystal device of the type which carries out outgoing radiation to the other side but / at least] substrate, That is, using a reflexible ingredient as a member which forms a reflecting plate in the either side of the substrates 81a and 81b, or is prepared in one substrate itself or substrate, incident light and the reflected light can be modulated and it can apply also to the component of the type which carries out outgoing radiation of the light to the same side as an incidence side. Moreover, it is applicable also to the electrochromatic display component which prepared the color filter of R, G, and B in one side of Substrates 81a and 81b at least.

[0073] By the way, in order to realize most suitably a display by the first brightness and second brightness, he is trying to use chiral smectic liquid crystal which presents a monostable condition at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing [which was mentioned above] in the liquid crystal device of this invention.

[0074] Here, as for this liquid crystal ingredient, a phase transition sequence shows an isotropic liquid phase (ISO.)-cholesteric phase (Ch)-chiral smectic C phase (SmC*) or an isotropic liquid phase (ISO.)-chiral smectic C phase (SmC*). To between the substrates of a pair by moreover, the thing for which DC electrical potential difference of one of positive/negative is impressed in the case of the transition to a SmC* phase Arrange only in one direction of a layer between the two directions of a layer, namely, it is made for the gap direction of an an average of 1 shaft orientation processing shaft and the direction of a smectic layer normal to become fixed. The virtual cone edge (or the inside) was made to stabilize the average molecule location of the liquid crystal at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, and the orientation condition of a SmC* phase of having vanished the memory nature has been acquired.

[0075] Moreover, in the liquid crystal device using such liquid crystal, although more various approaches as orientation processing for acquiring a uniform orientation condition all over a panel than before are examined, the approach of being able to cover especially a large area and being able to make carry out orientation to one shaft, and carrying out rubbing processing of the front face of the film which

carried out solution coating of the organic materials, such as polyimide, polyamidoimide, a polyamide, and polyvinyl alcohol, since a manufacture process process is also simple is taken.

[0076] In addition, in case uniaxial orientation nature is given by generally carrying out rubbing processing of the front face of these organic film, it is thought that such optically uniaxial [good] that the orientation restraining force determined with own structure or rubbing reinforcement of orientation film etc. is large is given.

[0077] On the other hand, although the liquid crystal molecule has taken layer structure in the smectic C phase, the Chevron structure to which the direction of a layer bent to the character type of ** with perpendicular book-shelf structure or a certain inclination to the vertical substrate side as structure of the layer, or slanting book-shelf structure with the inclination which exists similarly is known. It is known especially that book-shelf structure will be stabilized by the ingredient system to which naphthalene system liquid crystal, Pori fluorine liquid crystal, etc. were restricted, and it will be discovered, and much smectic C liquid crystal has taken the Chevron structure or slanting book-shelf structure where the layer inclined.

[0078] By the way, when structure with an inclination with such a layer is taken, in the case of the Chevron structure, in C1 orientation, C2 orientation, and slanting book-shelf structure, slanting book-shelf 1 (NBS1) orientation and slanting book-shelf 2 (NBS2) orientation are similarly taken by the difference in the inclination direction of a layer according to the direction of the tilt angle of a layer.

[0079] And since a defect arises on the boundary when two fields where the inclination directions of these layers differ are intermingled, the technique for obtaining uniform orientation without a defect is examined conventionally, and making C1 orientation into dominance by making the value of for example, a pre tilt high as the technique etc. is known.

[0080] However, the liquid crystal of this invention is carrying out abbreviation coincidence of the average molecule location and uniaxial orientation processing shaft at the time of no electric-field impressing, and since bistability nature is vanished and the monostable condition is made to discover, enlarging a pre tilt angle extremely is connected with destabilizing monostable nature.

[0081] Then, in this invention, even if it is the own structure or same own orientation film of orientation film, it is made to weaken orientation restraining force by adjusting rubbing reinforcement relatively. And the stripe-like orientation condition that the very small field where the directions of a director of a liquid crystal molecule differ slightly is intermingled is realizable by weakening orientation restraining force relatively in this way. And in such an orientation condition, the orientation change by drive does not arise, and a defective line is not conspicuous, and high contrast can be realized.

[0082] If distribution of the direction of liquid crystal part remaining cartridge REKUTA in the stripe texture at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing is controlled within **10 degrees to the average molecule shaft orientations of the whole component by adjusting orientation restraining force suitably still in this way, high contrast can be realized more.

[0083] Here explains the stripe texture in this invention.

[0084] Drawing 6 is the mimetic diagram of the stripe texture of this invention. If polarization microscope observation is carried out, in the liquid crystal device of this invention, the texture (pattern) of the shape of a stripe like drawing 6 (a) in general will be observed. Here, the array direction of this stripe has gathered in the about 1 direction, and on the average, that direction is almost the same as the uniaxial orientation processing direction gamma, or is arranged in the direction lambda shifted a little. Although the direction n of a smectic layer normal exists at this time, when the phase sequence of liquid crystal is an isotropic liquid phase-cholesteric phase-chiral smectic C phase or an isotropic liquid phase-chiral smectic C phase, the direction's [the uniaxial orientation processing direction gamma and] n of a smectic layer normal does not correspond from an elevated-temperature side.

[0085] subsequently, a direction d1 which is mutually different in an adjoining stripe field as the direction of average molecular arrangement in a stripe is shown in drawing 6 (b) from an optical axis in each stripe field, when this stripe texture is observed in a detail And d2 it is -- things are observed.

[0086] And under polarization microscope observation, it may be checked by gap of the direction of an optical axis between such adjoining stripe fields by looking that it is a stripes-like (shape of stripe)

texture. The direction d1 of molecular arrangement in such a very small field Although it exists with dispersion in some with the whole component, as an average direction of molecular arrangement as the whole component, it has arranged in the direction of d.

[0087] In addition, in order to acquire high contrast, it is desirable that the gap with the uniaxial orientation processing direction gamma of a substrate and the average longitudinal direction lambda of a stripe texture is 10 degrees or less, and it is desirable that the distribution d of the direction of liquid crystal part remaining cartridge REKUTA in this stripe texture at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing is less than **10 degrees to the average molecule shaft orientations d of the whole component. Furthermore, it is desirable that the average longitudinal direction lambda of a stripe texture and the 5 degrees or more of the directions n of a smectic layer normal have shifted.

[0088] Furthermore, in order to acquire high contrast, it is desirable that the layer tilt angles delta of the liquid crystal measured by the X diffraction measurement stated in the example mentioned later (angle of the direction of a layer of a chiral smectic C phase and a substrate normal to make) are 10 degrees or more and less than 35 degrees, and the X diffraction full width at half maximum of the liquid crystal cell obtained by X diffraction measurement about the layer tilt angle delta within the component of liquid crystal is 3 degrees or more.

[0089] As other means for on the other hand acquiring a uniform orientation condition all over a panel Also not only in weakening relatively orientation restraining force which the orientation film gives but the liquid crystal device which has equivalent orientation restraining force, for example As a means for making an one direction equalize the direction of a layer normal, in the case of Ch-SmC* phase transition Or the value of Vx and -Vx shown in DC electrical potential difference of one of the positive/negative impressed between the substrates of a pair in the case of I phase (ISO.)-SmC* phase transition, i.e., drawing 5 mentioned already, can be realized also by adjusting.

[0090] In addition, if the value of DC electrical potential difference impressed in our examination is enlarged, since the uniformity of the direction of a director of a liquid crystal molecule increases, the size of a micro domain which are two or more very small fields where thresholds differ as the increase of the homogeneity of the tilt angle of the layer formed by transferring to a chiral smectic C phase and a result will become large.

[0091] And when the size of a micro domain became large in this way, dispersion arose in the gradient display for every pixel performed according to the total of the area of a micro domain which changes according to the value of DC electrical potential difference to impress, and it became clear that it was in the inclination to bring about deterioration of image quality.

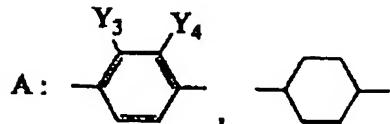
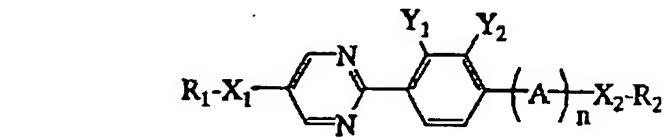
[0092] Then, when the size of the micro domain which dispersion for every pixel does not produce was examined and the minor axis of the smallest unit of a micro domain which has not a perfect circle but the ellipse or the rectangle-configuration was 10 micrometers or less, it turned out that it becomes clear that it is checked by looking that a gradation display is a continuous tone, and gradation dispersion for every pixel by existence of a domain does not arise by this. Therefore, it is desirable to adjust suitably the value of DC electrical potential difference impressed so that it may become said domain size.

[0093] Since it becomes impossible to make an one direction equalize the direction of a layer normal and may stop, fulfilling the property as a display device on the other hand when the value of DC electrical potential difference to impress is made extremely small, it is desirable to impress preferably the minimum electrical potential difference which can equalize the direction of a layer normal to an one direction in each liquid crystal device.

[0094] Moreover, the chiral smectic liquid crystal used for this invention has that desirable whose phase transition sequence is an isotropic liquid phase (ISO.)-cholesteric phase (Ch)-chiral smectic C phase or an isotropic liquid phase (ISO.)-chiral smectic C phase from an elevated-temperature side. The example of the desirable compound which constitutes the liquid crystal constituent used for below by this invention is shown in (1) - (4).

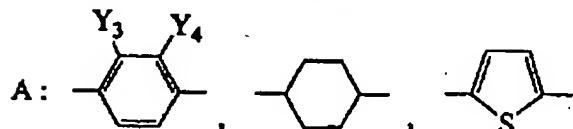
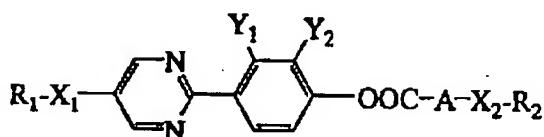
[0095]

[Formula 1]



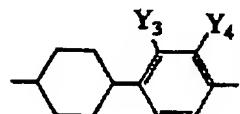
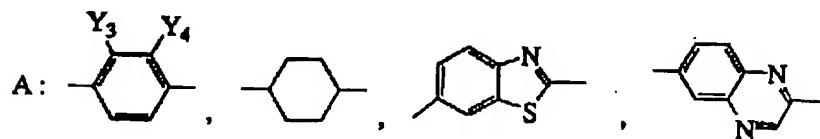
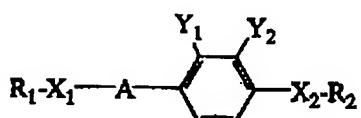
R1 and R2: -- the alkyl group X1 of the straight chain which may have the substituent whose carbon atomic numbers are 1-20, or the letter of branching, X2:single bond, O, COO, OOCY1, Y2 and Y3, Y4:H, Fn:0, or 1[0096 --]

[Formula 2]



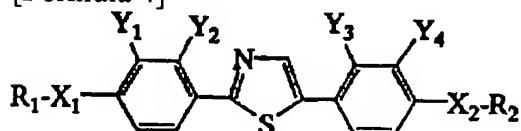
the alkyl group X1 of the straight chain which may have the substituent R1 and whose R2:carbon atomic number are 1-20, or the letter of branching, X2:single bond, O, COO, OOCY1, Y2 and Y3, Y4:H, or F [0097 --]

[Formula 3]



the alkyl group X1 of the straight chain which may have the substituent R1 and whose R2:carbon atomic number are 1-20, or the letter of branching, X2:single bond, O, COO, OOCY1, Y2 and Y3, Y4:H, or F [0098 --]

[Formula 4]



The alkyl groups X1 and X2 of the straight chain which may have the substituent R1 and whose R2:carbon atomic number are 1-20, or the letter of branching: Explain the example of the gestalt of this operation single bond, O, COO, OOCY1, Y2 and Y3, Y4:H, or below F [0099] (Example 1)

(Production of a liquid crystal cell) The glass substrate of a pair with a thickness of 1.1mm which formed IT0 700A film as a transparent electrode was prepared. After applying the commercial orientation film SE 7992 (the Nissan chemistry company make) for TFT with the spin coat method on the transparent electrode of this substrate and performing predrying for [80 degrees-C] 5 minutes after that, heating baking was given at 200 degrees C for 1 hour, and the polyimide coat of 50A of thickness was obtained.

[0100] Then, rubbing processing by nylon cloth was performed as uniaxial orientation processing to the polyimide film on the substrate concerned. The conditions of rubbing processing were made into the amount of pushing of 0.3mm, feed-rate 10 cm/sec, rotational frequency 1000rpm, and four counts of delivery using the rubbing roll which stuck nylon (NF-77/Teijin make) on the roll of 10cm of diameters.

[0101] Then, sprinkled the silica bead of 1.5 micrometers of mean diameters, it was made to counter as a spacer, on one substrate, so that the rubbing processing direction of each substrate may serve as anti-parallel (antiparallel) mutually, and the cel (empty cel of a single pixel) of a uniform cel gap was obtained.

[0102] Next, in order to evaluate relatively the orientation restraining force of this liquid crystal cell, the liquid crystal which has the phase sequence ISO-SmA-SmC* considered for - shaft stacking tendency to be weak as liquid crystal was poured in at the temperature of an isotropic phase, it cooled to the temperature which shows a chiral smectic liquid crystal phase, and the liquid crystal device was created, and when the orientation condition in a room temperature was observed, good uniaxial orientation nature was not obtained.

[0103] (Production of a active-matrix cel) It considers as the active-matrix substrate which has a-SiTFT equipped with the silicon nitride film by using one substrate as gate dielectric film using the same ingredient and same transparent electrode of conditions as the above, and the polyimide orientation film, and has the color filter of R.G.B in one substrate, and the active-matrix cel (panel) of the pixel structure shown in drawing 3 was produced. In addition, the screen size set 10.4 inches and the number of pixels to 800x600xRGB.

[0104] (Preparation of a liquid crystal constituent) The liquid crystal constituent of the following liquid crystallinity compound was mixed and carried out, and C-1 was prepared. In addition, the numeric value written together in the structure expression is a weight ratio in the case of mixing.

[0105]

[Formula 5]

<chem>C6H13-C6N(CN)c1ccc(cc1)Oc2ccc(cc2)OC10H21</chem>	11.55
<chem>C10H21-C6N(CN)c1ccc(cc1)Oc2ccc(cc2)OC8H17</chem>	11.55
<chem>C8H17-C6N(CN)c1ccc(cc1)Oc2ccc(cc2)OC(=O)C7H15</chem>	7.70
<chem>C8H17-C6N(CN)c1ccc(cc1)Oc2ccc(cc2)OC(=O)C6H13</chem>	7.70
<chem>C9H19-C6N(CN)c1ccc(cc1)Oc2ccc(cc2)OC(=O)C7H15</chem>	7.70
<chem>C6H13-C6N(CN)c1ccc(cc1)Oc2ccc(cc2)c3ccc(C4H11)cc3</chem>	9.90
<chem>C6H13-C6N(CN)c1ccc(cc1)Oc2ccc(cc2)c3ccc(C7H15)cc3</chem>	9.90
<chem>C11H23-C6N(CN)c1ccc(cc1)OC(=O)C2SC2(C)C4H9</chem>	30.0
<chem>C10H21-C6N(CN)c1ccc(cc1)OCH2CH(C(=O)P)C4H17</chem>	4.00

The physical-properties PARAME-evening of above-mentioned liquid crystal constituent LC-1 is shown below.

[0106] Phase transition temperature (degree C)

86.3 61.2 -7.2
I S O → C h → S m C * → C r y

Spontaneous polarization (30 degrees C) :P s=2.9 nC/cm² cone angle (30 degrees C): theta= 23.3 degrees (100Hz, **12.5V, Cellgap=1.4micrometer)

In the cel and active-matrix cel of a single pixel which were produced in the process of more than 20-micrometer above, The whorl pitch in the layer tilt-angle SmC[of delta (30 degrees C):21.6 degrees] * phase of ***** of a chiral smectic C phase, and a substrate normal to make (30 degrees C) : the above-mentioned liquid crystal constituent LC-1 It poured in at the temperature of Ch phase and liquid crystal was cooled to the temperature which shows a chiral smectic liquid crystal phase, at the time of this cooling, processing which cools by impressing the offset voltage (direct current voltage) of -5V before and after Ch-SmC* phase transition was performed, and the liquid crystal device samples A and B were produced.

[0107] Evaluation about the following item was performed about these liquid crystal device samples A and B.

[0108] 1. Polarization microscope observation was performed about the orientation condition of the

liquid crystal of the orientation condition liquid crystal device sample A.

[0109] Consequently, at the room temperature (30 degrees C), it turned out that the stripe-like texture is formed all over a cel by no electrical-potential-difference impressing. When the angle which the average longitudinal direction and the uniaxial orientation processing direction of this stripe texture make was measured, it was about 3 degrees. Moreover, when still more detailed observation about each stripe texture was performed, it turned out that the maximum *** differ delicately in the field of the shape of each stripe, and it exists with width of face of about 4 degrees as distribution of the maximum ***. Moreover, the direction of a layer normal was equal to the one direction all over the cel.

[0110] 2. the optical response liquid crystal device sample A by square wave impression -- under a cross Nicol's prism, to the polarization microscope with a photomultiplier, this sample A has been arranged so that it may become dark field in the state of no electrical-potential-difference impressing about a polarization shaft, and optical level was measured, impressing the square wave electrical potential difference of 60Hz (**5V), and changing an electrical potential difference.

[0111] Consequently, when two or more very small fields which the molecule reversed to confession voice appeared when the electrical potential difference of straight polarity was impressed, and applied voltage was enlarged gradually after that, it was observed that the area of these very small fields increases gradually. Furthermore, the optical response has checked that the halftone condition stabilized without being dependent on a last condition was acquired.

[0112] Moreover, about 1/10 optical response in straight polarity electrical-potential-difference impression of the same electrical-potential-difference absolute value was checked also to the electrical potential difference of negative polarity, and it has checked that the halftone which did not depend for the average of the optical response to the electrical potential difference of positive/negative on the last condition, but was stabilized was acquired.

[0113] Furthermore, since a stripe texture did not change when a square wave drive was performed continuously, the stability of this orientation has been checked. In addition, the contrast at the time of impressing square wave**5V is 90 (10-50 degrees C) or more, and can display good image quality.

[0114] 3. Image quality evaluation was performed using the liquid crystal device sample B which is a active-matrix panel using the nature evaluation TFT of an animation. This nature evaluation of an animation was considered as the subjectivity evaluation by about ten non-experts, and the five steps of following scales (category) estimated it. The image used for evaluation chose three kinds (beige char **, a sightseeing guide plate, yacht harbor) from the Hi-Vision standard image (still picture) of BTA, and the 432x168 pixel for a core in it was started and used for it.

[0115] Furthermore, these images were moved with the constant speed of 6.8 (deg/sec) which is general motion rate extent of a TV program, respectively, the dynamic image was created, and dotage of an image was evaluated.

[0116] - Scale 5 -- Good good quality of an animation and scale 4 that circumference dotage of each one is not observed at all, but is sharp -- scale 3 which circumference dotage of a screen hardly worries -- Circumference dotage of each one is observed and it is hard to distinguish a fine alphabetic character.

[0117] - Scale 2 -- Circumference dotage of a screen becomes remarkable and cannot distinguish a big alphabetic character easily, either.

[0118] - Scale 1 -- Dotage becomes remarkable on the whole screen and a subject-copy image is almost distinction impossible.

[0119] The output from the computer side of the image source at this time was made into a picture rate (progressive) which scans 60 screens sequentially in 1 second.

[0120] First, the display by the side of the TFT panel (sample) performed the display of 60 frames in 1 second, division did not make one frame two or more fields, but the frame reversal drive was performed. Consequently, although it was [some], circumference dotage of a dynamic image was observed. When subjectivity evaluation of this circumference dotage degree was carried out, it was three to about four in the above-mentioned five-step evaluation.

[0121] Next, when one frame was divided into the two fields, a straight polarity electrical potential difference was impressed in the first field, a negative polarity electrical potential difference (the voltage

level of both the fields is the same) was impressed in the continuing field and it was made to operate by frequency 120HZ substantially, it has practically sufficient brightness, and a flicker was not observed at all, but the dynamic image with which circumference dotage is not sensed at all was observed, and the ideal dynamic image was obtained. In the above-mentioned five-step evaluation, it was the level of 5. [0122] In addition, when this evaluation was performed using general CRT, all the members used 5 and the response used the TFT type liquid crystal display of this marketing dozens mSs by five-step evaluation, it was as a result of [about two to three] evaluation in five-step evaluation.

[0123] (Example 2)

(Production of a liquid crystal cell) The cel (the empty cel and active-matrix cel of a single pixel) of the uniform cel gap of the same creation conditions as an example 1 was obtained except having made it counter so that the rubbing processing direction of each substrate may be parallel (parallel) mutually.

[0124] The above-mentioned liquid crystal constituent LC-1 was injected into the cel of these single pixel, and the active-matrix cel at the temperature of Ch phase, liquid crystal was cooled to the temperature which shows a chiral smectic liquid crystal phase, and the liquid crystal device samples C (cel of a single drawing system) and D (active-matrix cel) which impressed DC offset (-5V) at the time of Ch-SmC* phase transition on the occasion of this cooling were produced.

[0125] When the evaluation same about these liquid crystal device samples C and D as 1-3 of an example 1 was performed, even if the same behavior and same property as the liquid crystal device samples A and B of the ***** example 1 were acquired and the direction of rubbing changed, it was checked that the same condition is reproduced.

[0126] (Example 3)

(Production of a liquid crystal cell) The cel (the empty cel and active-matrix cel of a single pixel) of the uniform cel gap of the same creation conditions as an example 1 was produced.

[0127] Liquid crystal constituent LC-2 shown below were injected into the cel of these single pixel, and the active-matrix cel at the temperature of Ch phase, liquid crystal was cooled to the temperature which shows a chiral smectic liquid crystal phase, and the liquid crystal device samples E (cel of a single pixel) and F (active-matrix cel) which impressed DC offset (-5V) at the time of Ch-SmC* phase transition on the occasion of this cooling were produced.

[0128]

[Formula 6]

<chem>C6H13-c1ccncc1-c2ccc(OCC10H21)cc2</chem>	7.50
<chem>C10H21-c1ccncc1-c2ccc(OCC8H17)cc2</chem>	7.50
<chem>C8H17-c1ccncc1-c2ccc(OCC(=O)C7H15)cc2</chem>	5.00
<chem>C8H17-c1ccncc1-c2ccc(OCC(=O)C6H13)cc2</chem>	5.00
<chem>C9H19-c1ccncc1-c2ccc(OCC(=O)C7H15)cc2</chem>	5.00
<chem>C6H13-c1ccncc1-c2ccc(C5H11)cc2</chem>	13.12
<chem>C6H13-c1ccncc1-c2ccc(C7H15)cc2</chem>	13.12
<chem>C11H23-c1ccncc1-c2ccc(OCC(=O)c3ccsc3)cc2</chem>	39.76
<chem>C10H21-c1ccncc1-c2ccc(OCH2CH(F)C8H17)cc2</chem>	4.00

The physical-properties PARAME-evening of above-mentioned liquid crystal constituent LC-2 is shown below.

[0129] Phase transition temperature-(degree C)

9 6. 7 6 2. 9 6. 5
I S O → C h → S m C * → C r y

Spontaneous polarization (30 degrees C) :P s=3.4 nC/cm² cone angle (30 degrees C): theta= 24.7 degrees (100Hz, **12.5V, Cellgap=1.4micrometer)

The whorl pitch in a tilt-angle SmC[of delta (30 degrees C):16.5 degrees] * phase (30 degrees C): The evaluation as an example 1 with 20 micrometers or more same about these liquid crystal device samples E and F was performed.

[0130] 1. Polarization microscope observation was performed about the orientation condition of the liquid crystal of the orientation condition liquid crystal device sample E. Consequently, at the room temperature (20 degrees C), it turned out that the stripe-like texture is formed all over a cel by no electrical-potential-difference impressing. When the angle which the average longitudinal direction and the uniaxial orientation processing direction of this stripe texture make was measured, it was about 3 degrees. Moreover, when still more detailed observation about each stripe texture was performed, it turned out that the maximum **** differ delicately in the field of the shape of each stripe, and it exists

with width of face of about 3 degrees as distribution of the maximum ****. Moreover, the direction of a layer normal was equal to the one direction all over the cel.

[0131] Moreover, there are very few point defects (considered the joint of the field where the tilt angles of a layer differ) which cause optical leakage by Static (electrical-potential-difference condition of not impressing), as compared with the liquid crystal device A mentioned already.

[0132] 2. When the same measurement as an example 1 was carried out, two or more very small fields which the molecule reversed to confession voice appeared when the electrical potential difference of straight polarity was impressed and applied voltage was gradually enlarged after that about the optical response liquid crystal device sample E by square wave impression, it was observed that the area of these very small fields increases gradually.

[0133] When it observed in the detail further about this very small field, it was observed that that very small area size is about 2-3 micrometers. Furthermore, the optical response has checked that the halftone condition stabilized without being dependent on a last condition was acquired. Moreover, about 1/10 optical response in straight polarity electrical-potential-difference impression of the same electrical-potential-difference absolute value was checked also to the electrical potential difference of negative polarity, and it has checked that the halftone which did not depend for the average of the optical response to the electrical potential difference of positive/negative on the before-like condition, but was stabilized was acquired.

[0134] Furthermore, since a stripe texture did not change when a square wave drive was performed continuously, the stability of this orientation has been checked. In addition, the contrast at the time of impressing square wave**5V is 140 (10-50 degrees C) or more, and can display good image quality.

[0135] 3. Measurement (production of the cel for X-ray measurement) of the tilt angle of a layer, next X diffraction measurement of the tilt angle delta of the smectic layer of the liquid crystal in this liquid crystal device sample E were performed. In addition, the cel for X-ray measurement was fundamentally produced by the same approach as the above-mentioned except having used 80-micrometer thickness glass (trade name [by Corning, Inc.] micro sheet), in order to reduce absorption of an X-ray as much as possible as a substrate.

- The approach (86 Japan Display Sep.30-Oct. 2, 1986, pp_ 456-458) announced by Clerks and Lagerwall, or the approach (J. J.A.P., 27(5) (1988) pp.L725-728) of Ochi and others and the same approach was used for the measurement basic target of the tilt angle of a layer.

[0136] Moreover, the measuring device made copper K alpha rays the analytical line using the X-ray diffractometer by MAC Saiensu-Sha of a rotating target method. Measurement of the interlayer spacing of liquid crystal applied bulk liquid crystal on the glass of 80-micrometer thickness, and asked by performing 2 theta/theta scan like the usual powder X diffraction.

[0137] Liquid crystal constituent LC-2 were injected into the cel for X-ray measurement produced previously at the temperature of an isotropic phase, and the liquid crystal device was produced by cooling slowly to a room temperature (20 degrees C), impressing DC offset (-5V) at the time of Ch-SmC* phase transition.

[0138] Then, the X-ray detector was set by angle-of-diffraction 2theta which obtained said interlayer spacing, theta scan of a cel was done, and the tilt angle delta in a room temperature (30 degrees C) was computed by the approach shown in said reference. Consequently, the broadcloth peak with the weak reinforcement whose half-value width is 6 degrees was observed. It is thought that liquid crystal constituent LC-2 have taken the slanting book-shelf structure where the tilt angle delta of a layer is 14 degrees, in the anti-parallel rubbing cel, and the layer which has a layer tilt angle with it since it is broadcloth weakly [peak intensity] is intermingled by this. [the small homogeneity of a layer and] [various] In addition, this measurement result is shown in drawing 7.

[0139] 4. The ideal dynamic image was obtained like the nature evaluation example 1 of an animation. In the above-mentioned five-step evaluation, it was the level of 5.

[0140] Next, the example of a comparison is explained.

[0141] (Example 1 of a comparison)

(Production of a liquid crystal cell) The empty cel and the active-matrix cel were produced like the

example 1, LC-1 was poured in with Ch phase, direct current voltage in offset voltage impression cooling processing was performed by -10V, and the liquid crystal device samples G and H were obtained.

[0142] The evaluation same about these liquid crystal device samples G and H as an example 1 was performed.

[0143] 1. About the orientation condition liquid crystal device sample G, two fields (C1 orientation and C2 orientation) separated by the clear defective line were observed at the room temperature (30 degrees C). These two fields are in the condition from which the maximum **** shifted the direction of rubbing, and a little, and at least each maximum dark differs slightly. However, if a square wave is impressed in this condition, it will cross on the outskirts from the boundary of two fields, and will change to new orientation in an instant. Since at least the maximum dark of this part shifts from two fields observed before square wave impression, degradation of contrast takes place.

[0144] 2. The optical response characteristic was measured, impressing the square wave of 60HZ(s) like an example 1, and changing an electrical potential difference about the optical response liquid crystal device sample G by short **** impression.

[0145] Consequently, when the optical response of the whole cel was observed, the optical response was fully carried out like the example 1 at the electrical potential difference of straight polarity, and about 1/10 optical response in straight polarity electrical-potential-difference impression of the same electrical-potential-difference absolute value was checked to the electrical potential difference of negative polarity. On the other hand, when C1 orientation and C2 orientation were observed according to the individual, it turned out that the need electrical-potential-difference value for obtaining the amount of transmitted lights with the more nearly same C2 orientation part is low, and nonuniformity has arisen for every pixel.

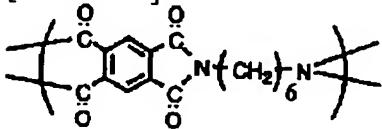
[0146] 3. the nature evaluation liquid crystal device sample H of an animation -- an example 1 -- being the same (120Hz drive by 60Hz drive and frame division drive) -- quality of an animation in a active-matrix drive was evaluated. When subjectivity evaluation of the circumference dotage degree was carried out, it was 5 by the five-step evaluation category. However, on the whole, the display image was whitish, and the badness of contrast was conspicuous.

[0147] (Example 2 of a comparison)

(Production of a liquid crystal cell) The glass substrate of a pair with a thickness of 1.1mm which formed IT0 700A film as a transparent electrode was prepared. After applying the polyimide precursor of the following structure expression with the spin coat method on the transparent electrode of this substrate and performing predrying for [80 degrees-C] 5 minutes after that, heating baking was given at 200 degrees C for 1 hour, and the polyimide coat of 50A of thickness was obtained.

[0148]

[Formula 7]



Then, rubbing processing by nylon cloth was performed as uniaxial orientation processing to the polyimide film on the substrate concerned. The conditions of rubbing processing were made into the amount of pushing of 0.3mm, feed-rate 10 cm/sec, rotational frequency 1000rpm, and four counts of delivery using the rubbing roll which stuck nylon (NF-77/Teijin make) on the roll of 10cm of diameters.

[0149] Then, sprinkled the silica bead of 1.4 micrometers of mean diameters, it was made to counter as a spacer, on one substrate, so that the rubbing processing direction of each substrate may be parallel (parallel) mutually, and the cel (empty cel of a single pixel) of a uniform cel gap was obtained.

[0150] In addition, in order to evaluate relatively the orientation restraining force of this liquid crystal cell, the liquid crystal which has the phase sequence ISO-SmA-SmC* considered for uniaxial orientation

nature to be weak as liquid crystal with it being the same as that of an example 1 is poured in at the temperature of an isotropic phase. When it cooled to the temperature which shows a chiral smectic liquid crystal phase, the liquid crystal device was created and the orientation condition in a room temperature was observed, it was observed that good uniaxial orientation nature is shown. As compared with the cel for which the cel used in the example 2 of a comparison was used in the example 1, orientation restraining force is considered to be strong with it being relative.

[0151] (Production of a active-matrix cel) It considers as the active-matrix substrate which has a-SiTFT equipped with the silicon nitride film by using one substrate as gate dielectric film using the same ingredient as the above and the transparent electrode of conditions, and the polyimide orientation film, and has the color filter of R, G, and B in one substrate, and the active-matrix cel (panel) of the pixel structure shown in drawing 3 was produced. In addition, the screen size set 10.4 inches and the number of pixels to 800x600.

[0152] Liquid crystal constituent LC-1 was poured into each of these single pixel cel and a active-matrix panel at the temperature of Ch phase, liquid crystal was cooled to the temperature which shows a chiral smectic liquid crystal phase, at the time of this cooling, processing which cools by impressing the offset (direct current) electrical potential difference of -2V before and after Ch-SmC* phase transition was performed, and the liquid crystal device samples I and J were obtained.

[0153] The evaluation same about these liquid crystal device samples I and J as an example 1 was performed.

[0154] 1. Although the maximum **** is in the condition which shifted from the direction of rubbing a little and the maximum **** had gathered in the about 1 direction at the room temperature (30 degrees C) about the orientation condition liquid crystal device sample I, two fields where the inclinations of a layer differ were observed. If a square wave is impressed in this condition, it will cross on the outskirts from the boundary of two fields, and will change to new orientation in an instant. Since at least the maximum dark of this part shifts from two fields observed before square wave impression, degradation of contrast takes place.

[0155] 2. The optical response characteristic was measured, impressing a 60Hz square wave like an example 1, and changing an electrical potential difference about the optical response liquid crystal device sample I by square wave impression.

[0156] Consequently, when the optical response of the whole cel was observed, the optical response was fully carried out like the example 1 at the electrical potential difference of straight polarity, and about 1/10 optical response in straight polarity electrical-potential-difference impression of the same electrical-potential-difference absolute value was checked to the electrical potential difference of negative polarity. However, in two fields in which the inclinations of a layer differ, it turned out that the need electrical potential differences for obtaining the same amount of transmitted lights differed, and unevenness has arisen for every pixel.

[0157] 3. the nature evaluation liquid crystal device sample J of an animation -- an example 1 -- being the same (120Hz drive by 60Hz drive and frame division drive) -- quality of an animation in a active-matrix drive was evaluated. Consequently, the dynamic image with which circumference dotage is not sensed at all was observed. When subjectivity evaluation of this circumference dotage degree was carried out, it was 5 by the five-step evaluation category. However, on the whole, the display image was whitish, and the badness of contrast was conspicuous.

[0158]

[Effect of the Invention] The liquid crystal equipment with which not only a high-speed response and gradation control are possible, but orientation was equipped with the liquid crystal device of stable and high contrast and this can be offered by performing uniaxial orientation processing or armature-voltage control so that chiral smectic liquid crystal may be in the orientation condition in which the stripe texture was formed, like this invention, as explained above.

[Translation done.]

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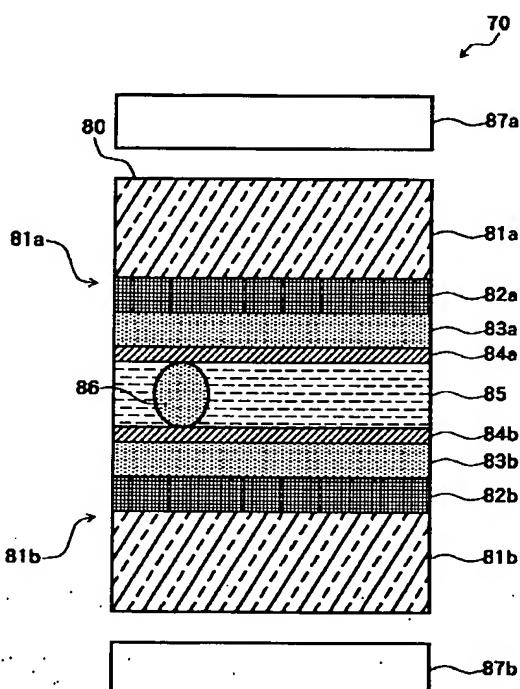
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(54)【発明の名称】 液晶素子及びこれを備えた液晶装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】 配向が安定で且つ高いコントラストの液晶素子及びこれを備えた液晶装置を提供する。

【解決手段】 電圧無印加時では液晶の液晶分子ダイレクタの平均分子軸が一方向にのみ存在し得る单安定化された第一の状態を示す一方、第一の極性の電圧印加時には液晶の平均分子軸は印加電圧の大きさに応じた角度で单安定化された位置から一方の側にチルトして第一の輝度で画像を表示し、第一の極性とは逆極性の第二の極性の電圧印加時には液晶の平均分子軸は单安定化された位置を維持するか、もしくは单安定化した位置から第一の極性の電圧を印加した時とは逆側にチルトして第一の輝度より小さい第二の輝度で画像を表示するカイラルスマスクlick液晶85を一对の基板81a, 81bにより挟持する。さらに、この液晶85がストライプテクスチャを形成した配向状態となるよう基板81a, 81bに対し一軸配向処理を行う。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 カイラルスマクチック液晶を挟持する一方、該液晶に電圧を印加する電極及び該電極に接続されたアクティブ素子を有すると共に、少なくとも一方の対向面に該液晶を配向させるための一軸配向処理が施された一対の基板と、少なくとも一方の基板側に配置された偏光板とを備え、前記アクティブ素子を駆動する駆動回路によってアクティブマトリックス駆動されることによりアナログ階調表示を行う液晶素子において、前記カイラルスマクチック液晶は、電圧無印加時では該液晶の液晶分子ダイレクタの平均分子軸が一方向にのみ存在し得る単安定化された第一の状態を示す一方、第一の極性の電圧印加時には該液晶の平均分子軸は印加電圧の大きさに応じた角度で前記単安定化された位置から一方の側にチルトして第一の輝度で画像を表示し、前記第一の極性とは逆極性の第二の極性の電圧印加時には該液晶の平均分子軸は該単安定化された位置を維持するか、もしくは該単安定化した位置から前記第一の極性の電圧を印加した時とは逆側にチルトして第一の輝度より小さい第二の輝度で画像を表示すると共に、ストライプテクスチャを形成した配向状態であることを特徴とする液晶素子。

【請求項2】 前記第二の輝度は、前記第一の輝度の1/5より小さいことを特徴とする請求項1記載の液晶素子。

【請求項3】 前記液晶の相系列が、高温側より、等方性液体相-コレステリック相-カイラルスマクチックC相、又は等方性液体相-カイラルスマクチックC相であることを特徴とする請求項1記載の液晶素子。

【請求項4】 前記液晶が前記ストライプテクスチャを形成する配向規制力を生じる一軸配向処理を施したことと特徴とする請求項1記載の液晶素子。

【請求項5】 前記基板の一軸配向処理方向と前記ストライプテクスチャの平均長手方向とのずれが10°以下であることを特徴とする請求項1記載の液晶素子。

【請求項6】 前記電圧無印加時におけるストライプテクスチャ内の液晶分子ダイレクタ方向の分布が、素子全体の平均分子軸方向に対して±10°以内であることを特徴とする請求項1又は5記載の液晶素子。

【請求項7】 前記ストライプテクスチャの平均長手方向とスマクチック層法線方向とのずれが5°以上であることを特徴とする請求項1、5又は6のいずれかに記載の液晶素子。

【請求項8】 X線回折測定によって得られた前記液晶のカイラルスマクチックC相の層方両と基板法線とのなす層傾斜角が10°以上、35°以内であることを特徴とする請求項1乃至7のいずれかに記載の液晶素子。

【請求項9】 前記層傾斜角に関し、前記X線回折測定によって得られたX線回折ピークの半値幅が3°以上であることを特徴とする請求項8記載の液晶素子。

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【請求項10】 前記液晶のバルク状態での螺旋ピッチはセル厚の2倍より長いことを特徴とする請求項1記載の液晶素子。

【請求項11】 前記液晶に対し前記第一の極性の電圧を印加した際に発現するしきい値の異なる梢円又は長方形形状を有する複数の微小領域の面積の総和により前記階調表示を行うことを特徴とする請求項1記載の液晶素子。

【請求項12】 前記第一の極性の電圧を前記微小領域の最小単位の短径が10μm以下となる大きさとすることを特徴とする請求項11記載の液晶素子。

【請求項13】 前記請求項1乃至12のいずれかに記載の液晶素子と、前記アクティブ素子を駆動する駆動回路を備えたことを特徴とする液晶装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】 本発明は、フラットパネルディスプレイ、プロジェクションディスプレイ、プリンタ等に用いられる液晶素子及びこれを備えた液晶装置に関する、特にカイラルスマクチック液晶を用いるものに関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】 従来より、ネマティック液晶素子において、一つ一つの画素に例えば薄膜トランジスタ(TFT)のような能動素子を配置した、アクティブマトリクスといわれる液晶素子の開発が行われている。

【0003】 そして、現在このアクティブマトリクス型の液晶素子に用いられるネマチック液晶のモードとして、例えばエム・シャット(M·Schadt)とダブリュー・ヘルフリッヒ(W·Helfrich)著 Applied Physics Letters第18巻、第4号(1971年2月15日発行)第127頁から128頁において示されたツイステッドネマチック(Twisted Nematic)モードが広く用いられている。

【0004】 また、最近では横方向電圧を利用したインプレインスイッチング(In-Plane Switching)モードが発表されており、ツイステッドネマチックモード液晶ディスプレイの欠点であった視野角特性の改善がなされている。なお、その他、上述したTFT等の能動素子を用いないネマティック液晶素子の代表例として、スーパーツイステッドネマティック(Super Twisted Nematic)モードがある。

【0005】 ところで、このようにネマティック液晶を用いた液晶素子は様々なモードが存在するが、そのいずれのモードの場合にも液晶の応答速度が数10ミリ秒以上かかってしまうという欠点があった。そこで、このような従来型のネマティック液晶素子の欠点を改善するものとして、液晶が双安定性を示す素子(SSFLC/Surface Stabilized FLC)がクラ

ーク (Clark) およびラガウェル (Lagerwa 11) により提案されている (特開昭56-107216号公報、米国特許第4367924号明細書)。

【0006】ここで、この双安定性を示す液晶としては、一般にカイラスメクティックC相を示す強誘電性液晶が用いられている。そして、この強誘電性液晶は、電圧印加の際に液晶分子の自発分極に電圧が作用し、分子の反転スイッチングがなされるため、非常に速い応答速度が得られる上にメモリ性のある双安定状態を発現させることができる。さらに、この液晶は視野角特性も優れていることから、高速、高精細、大面積の表示素子あるいはライトバルブとして適していると考えられる。

【0007】また、最近では液晶が3安定性状態を示す反強誘電性液晶が注目されている。そして、この反強誘電性液晶も、強誘電性液晶同様に、液晶分子の自発分極への作用により分子の反転スイッチングがなされるため、非常に速い応答速度が得られる。さらに、この液晶材料は、電圧無印加時には液晶分子は互いの自発分極を打ち消し合うような分子配列構造をとるため、電圧を印加しない状態では自発分極は存在しないことが特徴となっている。

【0008】なお、こうした自発分極による反転スイッチングを行う強誘電性液晶や反強誘電性液晶は、いずれもカイラスメクティック液晶相を示す液晶である。即ち、従来ネマティック液晶が抱えていた応答速度に関する問題点を解決できるという意味において、スメクティック液晶を用いた液晶素子の実現が期待されている。

【0009】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところが、このように高速応答性能など次世代のディスプレイ等に自発分極を有するスメクティック液晶が期待されているが、特に上述の双安定性状態や3安定状態を用いるモードでは、一画素内での階調表示が原理的に実現することが困難であった。

【0010】なお、近年、カイラスメクティック相を示す液晶を用いて階調制御を行うモードとして、「ショートピッチタイプの強誘電性液晶」、「高分子安定型強誘電性液晶」、「無閾反強誘電性液晶」などが提案されてるが、いずれも実用に十分なレベルに至っているものはない。

【0011】そこで、我々は特願平10-177145号並びに特願平10-177146号に記載されている素子 (以下、先願素子という) を発明し、提案している。ここで、この先願素子は、例えば高温側より等方性液体相 (ISO.) —コレスティック相 (Ch) —カイラスメクティックC相 (SmC*) 又は等方性液体相 (ISO.) —カイラスメクティックC相 (SmC*) を示す相系列の材料に着目し、電界無印加時の液晶の平均分子位置を仮想コーンのエッジ (もしくはその内側) の位置にて単安定化させるようにしている。

【0012】そして、例えばCh—SmC*相転移の際、又はI相 (ISO.) —SmC*相転移の際に一对の基板間に正負いずれかのDC電圧を印加する等によって層方向を一方向に均一化させ、これにより高速応答かつ階調制御が可能で、動画質に優れた高輝度の液晶素子を高い量産性と共に実現している。

【0013】しかし、先願素子は、このような優れた特徴を有するが、パネル全面にわたり均一な配向に制御することに、プロセス的な難易度の高さを抱えており、配向安定化のための手法が求められている。

【0014】そこで、本発明は、このような現状に鑑みてなされたものであり、配向が安定で且つ高いコントラストの液晶素子及びこれを備えた液晶装置を提供することを目的とするものである。

【0015】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は、カイラスメクティック液晶を挟持する一方、該液晶に電圧を印加する電極及び該電極に接続されたアクティプ素子を有すると共に、少なくとも一方の対向面に該液晶を配向させるための一軸配向処理が施された一对の基板と、少なくとも一方の基板側に配置された偏光板とを備え、前記アクティプ素子を駆動する駆動回路によってアクティブマトリックス駆動されることによりアナログ階調表示を行う液晶素子において、前記カイラスメクティック液晶は、電圧無印加時では該液晶の液晶分子ダイレクタの平均分子軸が一方向にのみ存在し得る単安定化された第一の状態を示す一方、第一の極性の電圧印加時には該液晶の平均分子軸は印加電圧の大きさに応じた角度で前記単安定化された位置から一方の側にチルトして第一の輝度で画像を表示し、前記第一の極性とは逆極性の第二の極性の電圧印加時には該液晶の平均分子軸は該単安定化された位置を維持するか、もしくは該単安定化した位置から前記第一の極性の電圧を印加した時とは逆側にチルトして第一の輝度より小さい第二の輝度で画像を表示すると共に、ストライプテクスチャーを形成した配向状態であることを特徴とするものである。

【0016】また本発明は、前記第二の輝度は、前記第一の輝度の1/5より小さいことを特徴とするものである。

【0017】また本発明は、前記液晶の相系列が、高温側より、等方性液体相—コレスティック相—カイラスメクティックC相、又は等方性液体相—カイラスメクティックC相であることを特徴とするものである。

【0018】また本発明は、前記液晶が前記ストライプテクスチャーを形成する配向規制力を生じる一軸配向処理を施したこと特徴とするものである。

【0019】また本発明は、前記基板の一軸配向処理方向と前記ストライプテクスチャーの平均長手方向とのずれが10°以下であることを特徴とするものである。

【0020】また本発明は、前記電圧無印加時における

ストライプテクスチャー内の液晶分子ダイレクタ方向の分布が、素子全体の平均分子軸方向に対して±10°以内であることを特徴とするものである。

【0021】また本発明は、前記ストライプテクスチャーの平均長手方向とスメクチック層法線方向とのずれが5°以上であることを特徴とするものである。

【0022】また本発明は、X線回折測定によって得られた前記液晶のカイラスメクチックC相の層方両と基板法線とのなす層傾斜角が10°以上、35°以内であることを特徴とするものである。

【0023】また本発明は、前記層傾斜角に関し、前記X線回折測定によって得られたX線回折ピークの半値幅が3°以上であることを特徴とするものである。

【0024】また本発明は、前記液晶のバルク状態での螺旋ピッチはセル厚の2倍より長いことを特徴とするものである。

【0025】また本発明は、前記液晶に対し前記第一の極性の電圧を印加した際に発現するしきい値の異なる梢円又は長方形形状を有する複数の微小領域の面積の総和により前記階調表示を行うことを特徴とするものである。

【0026】また本発明は、前記第一の極性の電圧を前記微小領域の最小単位が短径の10μm以下となる大きさとすることを特徴とするものである。

【0027】また本発明は、請求項1～12の何れかに記載の液晶素子と、前記アクティブ素子を駆動する駆動回路を備えたことを特徴とする液晶装置である。

【0028】また本発明のように、電圧無印加時では液晶の液晶分子ダイレクタの平均分子軸が一方向にのみ存在し得る单安定化された第一の状態を示す一方、第一の極性の電圧印加時には液晶の平均分子軸は印加電圧の大きさに応じた角度で单安定化された位置から一方の側にチルトして第一の輝度で画像を表示し、第一の極性とは逆極性の第二の極性の電圧印加時には液晶の平均分子軸は单安定化された位置を維持するか、もしくは单安定化した位置から第一の極性の電圧を印加した時とは逆側にチルトして第一の輝度より小さい第二の輝度で画像を表示するカイラスメクチック液晶を一対の基板により挟持する。さらに、この液晶がストライプテクスチャーを形成した配向状態となるよう一軸配向処理を行う。

【0029】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施の形態について説明する。

【0030】図1は、本発明の実施の形態に係る液晶素子を備えた液晶装置の構造を示す断面図であり、同図において、70は液晶装置、80は互いに偏光軸が直交した一対の偏光板87a、87b間に挟装されている液晶素子である。そして、この液晶素子80は、一対のガラス、プラスチック等透明性の高い材料からなる基板81a、81b間にカイラスメクチック相を呈する液晶を

挟持している。

【0031】ここで、この基板81a、81bには、夫々液晶85に電圧を印加するためのIn₂O₃、ITO等の材料からなる電極82a、82bが、例えばストライプ状に設けられており、これらが互いに交差してマトリックス電極構造（単純マトリックス）を形成している。なお、後述するように一方の基板にドット状の透明電極をマトリックス状に配置し、各透明電極にTFTやMIM（Metal-Insulator-Metal）等のスイッチング素子を接続し、他方の基板の一面上あるいは所定パターンの対向電極を設けアクティブマトリックス構造にすることが好ましい。

【0032】また、この電極82a、82b上には、必要に応じてこれらのショートを防止する等の機能を持つSiO₂、TiO₂、Ta₂O₅等の材料からなる絶縁膜83a、83bが夫々設けられ、さらに、絶縁膜83a、83b上には、液晶85に接し、その配向状態を制御するべく機能する配向制御膜84a、84bが設けられている。

【0033】ここで、この配向制御膜84a、84bの少なくとも一方には一軸配向処理が施されている。なお、この配向制御膜84a、84bは、例えば、ポリイミド、ポリイミドアミド、ポリアミド、ポリビニルアルコール等の有機材料を溶液塗工した膜の表面にラビング処理を施したもの、あるいはSiO等の酸化物、窒化物を基板に対し斜め方向から所定の角度で蒸着した無機材料の斜方蒸着膜にて構成されたものである。

【0034】さらに、この配向制御膜84a、84bについては、その材料の選択、処理（一軸配向処理等）の条件等により、液晶85の分子のプレチルト角（液晶分子の配向制御膜界面付近で膜面に対してなす角度）が調整される。

【0035】また、配向制御膜84a、84bがいずれも一軸配向処理がなされた膜である場合、夫々の膜の一軸配向処理方向（特にラビング方向）を、用いる液晶材料に応じて平行、反平行、あるいは45°以下の範囲でクロスするように設定することができる。

【0036】また、基板81a及び81bは、スペーサー86を介して対向している。かかるスペーサー86は、基板81a、81bの間の距離（セルギャップ）を決定するものであり、シリカビーズ等が用いられる。

【0037】ここで、このスペーサー86により決定されるセルギャップについては、液晶材料の違いによって最適範囲及び上限値が異なるが、均一な一軸配向性、また電圧無印加時に液晶分子の平均分子軸をほぼ配向処理軸の平均方向の軸と実質的に同一にする配向状態を発現させるべく、0.3～10μmの範囲に設定することが好ましい。

【0038】なお、スペーサー86に加えて基板81a及び81b間に接着性を向上させ、カイラスメクチック

ク相を示す液晶85の耐衝撃性を向上させるべく、エポキシ樹脂等の樹脂材料等からなる接着粒子を分散配置することもできる(図示せず)。

【0039】一方、このような液晶素子80では、液晶85は、その材料の組成を調整し、更に液晶材料の処理や素子構成、例えば配向制御膜84a, 84bの材料、処理条件等を適宜設定することにより、電圧無印加時では、液晶の平均分子軸(液晶分子)が単安定化されている配向状態を示し、駆動時では一方の極性(第一の極性)の電圧印加時に印加電圧の大きさに応じて平均分子軸の単安定化される位置を基準としたチルト角度が連続的に変化し、他方の極性(第二の極性)の電圧印加時には液晶の平均分子軸は、単安定化された位置を維持するか、又は印加電圧の大きさに応じた角度でチルトするような特性を示すようになっている。

【0040】なお、本実施の形態において、液晶85は、第一の極性の電圧印加による最大チルト角度の方が、第二の極性の電圧印加による最大チルト角度よりも大きくなる特性を示すようになっている。

【0041】ところで、本実施の形態に係る液晶装置70においては、図1に示す液晶素子80に対して階調信号を供給する駆動回路を設け、既述したような電圧の印加により液晶の平均分子軸の単安定位置からの連続的なチルト角度の変化及び液晶素子80からの出射光量が連続的に変化する特性を利用し、階調表示を行うように構成している。

【0042】例えば、液晶素子80の一方の基板として既述したようなTFT等を備えたアクティブマトリクス基板を用い、駆動回路で振幅変調によるアクティブマトリクス駆動を行うことでアナログ階調表示を可能としている。

【0043】次に、図2、図3を用いてこのようなアクティブマトリクス基板を用いた階調表示について説明する。

【0044】図2は、液晶素子80の一方の基板(アクティブマトリクス基板)の構成を模式的に示した図であり、同図に示すように、液晶素子に相当するパネル部90において、駆動手段である走査信号ドライバ91に連結した走査線に相当する水平方向のゲート線G1, G2…, G5と、駆動手段である情報信号ドライバ92に連結した情報信号線に相当する上下方向のソース線S1, S2…, S5とが互いに絶縁された状態で直交するように設けられている。

【0045】さらに、これらゲート線G1, G2…, G5及びソース線S1, S2…, S5各交点の画素に対応してスイッチング素子に相当する薄膜トランジスタ(TFT)94及び画素電極95が設けられている(同図では簡略化のため5x5画素の領域のみを示す)。なおスイッチング素子として、TFTの他、MIM素子を用いることもできる。

【0046】また、ゲート線G1, G2…, G5はTFT94のゲート電極(図示せず)に接続され、ソース線S1, S2…, S5はTFT94のソース電極(図示せず)に接続され、画素電極95はTFT94のドレイン電極(図示せず)に接続されている。

【0047】そして、このような構成の基板において、走査信号ドライバ91によりゲート線G1, G2…, G5が、例えば線順次に走査選択されてゲート電圧が供給されると共に、このゲート線G1, G2…, G5の走査選択に同期して情報信号ドライバ92から、各画素に書き込む情報に応じた情報信号電圧がソース線S1, S2…, S5に供給され、TFT94を介して各画素電極95に印加される。

【0048】一方、図3は、図2に示すようなパネル構成における各画素部分(1ビット分)の断面構造の一例を示す図であり、同図に示す構造では、TFT94及び画素電極95を備えるアクティブマトリクス基板20と、共通電極32を備えた対向基板40との間に、自発分極を有する液晶層49が挟持され、液晶容量(C1c)31が構成されている。なお、このアクティブマトリクス基板20では、TFT94としてアモルファスSiTFTを用いている。

【0049】ここで、このTFT94は、ガラス等からなる基板21上に形成され、図2に示すゲート線G1, G2…, G5に接続したゲート電極22上に窒化シリコン(SiNx)等の材料からなる絶縁膜(ゲート絶縁膜)23を介してa-Si層24が設けられており、該a-Si層24上に、夫々n⁺a-Si層25, 26を介してソース電極27、ドレイン電極28が互いに離間して設けられている。

【0050】なお、ソース電極27は図2に示すソース線S1, S2…, S5に接続し、ドレイン電極28はITO膜等の透明導電膜からなる画素電極95に接続している。また、TFT94におけるa-Si層24上をチャネル保護膜29が被覆している。さらに、このTFT94は、該当するゲート線が走査選択された期間においてゲート電極22にゲートパルスが印加されオン状態となる。

【0051】一方、アクティブマトリクス基板20においては、画素電極95と、ガラス基板21側に設けられた保持容量電極30とによって絶縁膜23(ゲート電極22上の絶縁膜と連続的に設けられた膜)を挟持した構造により、保持容量(CS)32が液晶層49と並列の形で設けられている。なお、この保持容量電極30はその面積が大きい場合、開口率が低下するため、ITO膜等の透明導電膜により形成される。

【0052】また、アクティブマトリクス基板20のTFT94及び画素電極95上には液晶49の配向状態を制御するための、例えばラビング処理等の一軸配向処理が施された配向膜43aが設けられており、対向基板4

0のガラス基板41上には全面同様の厚みで共通電極42及び配向膜43bが積層されている。なお、図2及び図3に示すようなパネル構成において、アクティブマトリクス基板20として、多結晶Si(p-Si)TFTを備えた基板を用いることができる。

【0053】次に、図4及び図5を参照して上記構造の液晶素子における特性を利用したアクティブマトリクス駆動について述べる。なお、図4は図3に示すパネルの画素部分の等価回路を示すものである。また、図5は液晶素子を駆動する印加電圧及び光学応答を示す図である。

【0054】ところで、本実施の形態におけるアクティブマトリクス駆動では、例えば一画素においてある情報を表示するための期間(1フレーム)を複数のフィールド(例えば図5に示す1F及び2F)に分割し、これら2フィールドにおいて平均的に所定の情報に応じた出射光量を得るようにしている。

【0055】以下、液晶層49が一方の極性の電圧印加で十分な透過光強度であり、逆極性ではそれより小さい透過光強度、本実施の形態においては1/5以下である特性を示す場合における2フィールドに分割された例について説明する。

【0056】ここで、図5(a)は、一画素を着目した際に、当該画素に接続する走査線となるゲート線に印加される電圧を示す。そして、上記構造の液晶素子では、既述したように各フィールド毎にゲート線G1, G2…, G5が、例えば線順次で選択され、ゲート線には選択期間T_{on}において所定のゲート電圧V_gが印加され、ゲート電極22に電圧V_gが加わり、TFT94がオン状態となる。

【0057】なお、他のゲート線が選択されている期間に相当する非選択期間T_{off}にはゲート電極22に電圧が加わらずTFT12は高抵抗状態(オフ状態)となり、これによりT_{off}毎に所定の同一のゲート線が選択されてゲート電極22にゲート電圧V_gが印加される。

【0058】図5(b)は、当該画素の情報信号線(ソース線)に印加される電圧V_sを示す。そして、図5(a)で示すように各フィールドで選択期間T_{on}でゲート電極22にゲート電圧が印加された際、これに同期して当該画素に接続する情報線となるソース線S1, S2…, S5からソース電極27に、所定のソース電圧(情報信号電圧)V_s(基準電位を共通電極42の電位V_cとする)が印加される。

【0059】ここで、1フレームを構成する第一のフィールド(1F)では、当該画素に書込まれる情報、例えば用いる液晶に応じた電圧-透過率特性を基に当該画素で得ようとする光学状態又は表示情報(透過率)に応じたレベルV_xの正極性のソース電圧(情報信号電圧)が印加される。

【0060】この時、TFT94がオン状態であるため、上記ソース電極27に印加される電圧V_xがドレン電極28を介して画素電極95に印加され、液晶容量(C1c)31及び保持容量(Cs)32に充電がなされ、画素電極の電位が情報信号電圧V_xになる。

【0061】統いて、当該画素の属するゲート線の非選択期間T_{off}においてTFT94は高抵抗(オフ状態)となるため、この非選択期間には液晶セル(液晶容量C1c)31及び保持容量(Cs)32では選択期間T_{on}で充電された電荷が蓄積された状態を維持し、電圧V_xが保持される。これにより、当該画素における液晶層49に第1フィールド1Fの期間を通して電圧V_xが印加され、当該画素の液晶部分ではこの電圧値に応じた光学状態(透過光量)が得られる。

【0062】一方、このとき液晶の応答速度がゲートオン期間より遅い場合、液晶セル(液晶容量C1c)31及び保持容量(Cs)32に充電が完了し、ゲートがオフされた非選択期間にスイッチングが開始される。そして、このような場合は自発分極の反転によって充電された電荷が相殺され、図5(c)のように液晶層49に印加される電圧値V_{pix}がV_xより小さいV_{x'}という値を取る。

【0063】次に、第二のフィールド(2F)の選択期間T_{on}では、第一のフィールド1Fとは極性が逆で実質的に同様の電圧値V_xを有するソース電圧(-V_x)がソース電極27に印加される。この時、TFT94がオン状態であり、画素電極95に電圧-V_xが印加されて、液晶容量(C1c)31及び保持容量(Cs)32に充電がなされ、画素電極の電位が情報信号電圧-V_xになる。

【0064】統いて、非選択期間T_{off}においてTFT94は高抵抗(オフ状態)となるため、この非選択期間には、液晶セル(液晶容量C1c)31及び保持容量(Cs)32では選択期間T_{on}で充電された電荷が蓄積された状態を維持し、電圧-V_xが保持される。

【0065】そして、当該画素における液晶層49に第2のフィールド2F期間を通して電圧-V_xが印加され、当該画素ではこの電圧値に応じた光学状態(出射光量)が得られる。このときも同様に液晶の応答速度がゲートオン期間より遅い場合、液晶セル(液晶容量C1c)31及び保持容量(Cs)32に充電が完了し、ゲートがオフされた非選択期間にスイッチングが開始される。

【0066】このような場合は自発分極の反転によって充電された電荷が相殺され、図5(c)のように液晶層49に印加される電圧値V_{pix}が-V_xより小さい-V_{x'}という値を取る。

【0067】一方、(d)に示すように第一フィールド1Fでは、V_xに応じた階調表示状態(出射光量)が得られ、第二フィールド2Fでは、-V_{x'}に応じた階調

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表示状態が得られるが、実際にはわずか透過光量の変化しか得られず、透過光量は T_x より小さく、0 レベルに近い T_y となる。

【0068】ところで、このようなアクティブマトリクス駆動では、カイラスメクチック相を示す液晶を用いた場合、良好な高速応答性に基づいた階調表示が可能となると同時に一画素で、あるレベルの階調表示を、高い透過光量を得る第一フィールド 1F と低い透過光量を得る第二フィールド 2F に分割して連続的に行うため、時間開口率が 50% 以下となり人間の目の感じる動画高速応答特性も良好になる。また、第二フィールド 2Fにおいては液晶分子の若干のスイッチング動作により完全に透過光量が 0 にはならないので、フレーム期間全体での人間の目に感じる輝度は確保される。

【0069】このように、高輝度（第一の輝度）の第一フィールド 1F と、低輝度（第二の輝度）の第二フィールド 2F より画像を形成し、これら両フィールド 1F, 2F で夫々輝度は異なるが実質的には同様の内容の画像を表示することで、人間が高速と感じられる動画像を得ることができ、0 もしくは低輝度のフィールドの設定により表示素子の明るさを大きく損なうことのない動画表示を実現することができる。

【0070】更に、第一及び第二フィールド 1F, 2F で同様のレベルの電圧が極性反転して液晶層 49 に印加されるため、液晶層 49 に実際に印加される電圧が交流化され液晶の劣化が防止される。

【0071】さらに、上記のアクティブマトリクス駆動では、2 フィールドからなる 1 フレーム全体では T_x と T_y を平均した透過光量が得られるため、情報信号電圧 V_s については、実際に当該フレームで当該画素で得ようとする画像情報（階調情報）に応じて、所定のレベルだけ大きな透過光量を得ることのできる電圧値を選択して印加するようにすれば、第一フィールド 1F において所望の階調状態より高いレベル透過光量での階調状態を表示することもできる。

【0072】なお、このアクティブマトリクス駆動による階調表示は、図 1 に示すような透光性の基板 81a, 81b と、一対の偏光板 87a, 87b を有し、不図示のバックライトにより一方の基板側から入射された光を変調し、他方側に出射するタイプの透過型液晶素子のみならず、少なくとも一方の基板に偏光板を設けた反射型液晶素子、即ち基板 81a, 81b のいずれか一方の側に反射板を設けるかあるいは一方の基板自体又は基板に設ける部材として反射性の材料を用いて、入射光及び反射光を変調し、入射側と同様の側に光を出射するタイプの素子にも適用することができる。また、基板 81a, 81b の一方に少なくとも R, G, B のカラーフィルタを設けたカラー液晶素子にも適用することができる。

【0073】ところで、本発明の液晶素子においては、

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第一の輝度及び第二の輝度での表示を最も好適に実現するため、上述したような電圧無印加時に単安定状態を呈するようなカイラスメクチック液晶を用いるようにしている。

【0074】ここで、この液晶材料は、相転移系列が等方性液体相 (ISO.) - コレスティック相 (Ch) - カイラスメクチック C 相 (SmC*)、又は等方性液体相 (ISO.) - カイラスメクチック C 相 (SmC*) を示すものである。また、SmC* 相への転移の際に一对の基板間に、正負いずれかの DC 電圧を印加することで、2 つの層方向のうち一方の層方向のみに揃え、即ち平均一軸配向処理軸と Smekチック層法線方向のずれ方向が一定となるようにし、電圧無印加時の液晶の平均分子位置を仮想コーンエッジ（もしくはその内側）に安定化させ、そのメモリ性を消失させた SmC* 相の配向状態を得ている。

【0075】また、このような液晶を用いる液晶素子においては、パネル全面で均一な配向状態を得るための配向処理としては従来より様々な方法が検討されているが、特に大面積に亘って一軸に配向させることができ、かつ、製造プロセス工程も簡単なことから、ポリイミドやポリアミドイミド、ポリアミド、ポリビニルアルコール等の有機材料を溶液塗工した膜の表面をラビング処理する方法が取られている。

【0076】なお、一般にはこれら有機膜の表面をラビング処理することで一軸配向性を付与する際、配向膜自身の構造あるいはラビング強度等によって決定される配向規制力が大きいほど良好な一軸性が付与されるものと考えられている。

【0077】一方、Smekチック C 相において液晶分子は層構造をとっているが、その層の構造としては層方向が上下基板面に対し垂直なブックシェルフ構造、もしくはある傾きをもってくの字型に折れ曲がったシェプロン構造、あるいは同様にある傾きをもった斜めブックシェルフ構造が知られている。中でもブックシェルフ構造はナフタレン系液晶やポリフッ素系液晶など限られた材料系で安定して発現することが知られており、多くの Smekチック C 液晶は層が傾いたシェプロン構造あるいは斜めブックシェルフ構造をとっている。

【0078】ところで、このような層がある傾きを持つ構造をとった場合、層の傾斜角の方向によりシェプロン構造の場合には C1 配向と C2 配向、斜めブックシェルフ構造においても同様に、層の傾斜方向の違いにより斜めブックシェルフ 1 (NBS1) 配向と、斜めブックシェルフ 2 (NBS2) 配向となる。

【0079】そして、これら層の傾斜方向の異なる 2 領域が混在した場合、その境界に欠陥が生じてしまうため、欠陥のない均一な配向を得るための手法が従来より検討されており、その手法として例えばプレチルトの値を高くすることで C1 配向を優位にさせることなどが知

られている。

【0080】しかしながら、本発明の液晶は、電界無印加時の平均分子位置と一軸配向処理軸を略一致させることで、双安定性を消失させ单安定状態を発現させているために、プレチルト角を極端に大きくすることは单安定性を不安定化させることにつながる。

【0081】そこで、本発明においては、ラビング強度を調整することにより、配向膜自身の構造、あるいは同じ配向膜であっても相対的に配向規制力を弱くするようしている。そして、このように相対的に配向規制力を弱くすることにより、液晶分子のダイレクタ方向がわずかに異なる微少な領域が混在するストライプ状の配向状態を実現することができる。そして、このような配向状態においては、駆動による配向変化が生じることがなく、また欠陥線が目立たず高いコントラストを実現し得る。

【0082】さらにこのように、配向規制力を適宜調整することによって、電界無印加時におけるストライプテクスチャー内の液晶分子ダイレクタ方向の分布を、素子全体の平均分子軸方向に対して±10°以内に制御すれば、より高コントラストを実現し得る。

【0083】ここで本発明におけるストライプテクスチャーについて説明する。

【0084】図6は本発明のストライプテクスチャーの模式図である。偏光顕微鏡観測すると本発明の液晶素子では概ね図6(a)のようなストライプ状のテクスチャー(模様)が観測される。ここで、このストライプの配列方向はほぼ一方向に揃っており、その方向は平均的には一軸配向処理方向 α とほぼ同じか、若干ずれた方向入に配列している。このときスメクチック層法線方向 n が存在するが、液晶の相系列が、高温側より、等方性液体相-コレステリック相-カイラルスメクチックC相、又は等方性液体相-カイラルスメクチックC相である場合は一軸配向処理方向 α とスメクチック層法線方向 n とは一致しない。

【0085】次いで、このストライプテクスチャーを詳細に観測した場合、各ストライプ領域における光軸方向から、ストライプ内の平均分子配列方向は図6(b)に示すとおり、隣接するストライプ領域で互いに異なる方向 d_1 及び d_2 であることが観測される。

【0086】そして、こうした隣接するストライプ領域間での光軸方向のずれによって、偏光顕微鏡観測下では綱状(ストライプ状)テクスチャーであると視認され得る。こうした微少領域内の分子配列方向 d_1 は素子全体では若干のばらつきを持って存在するが、素子全体としての平均的な分子配列方向としては d の方向に配列している。

【0087】なお、高コントラストを得るために、基板の一軸配向処理方向 α とストライプテクスチャーの平均長手方向入とのずれが10°以下であることが好まし

く、また電圧無印加時における該ストライプテクスチャー内の液晶分子ダイレクタ方向の分布 d が、素子全体の平均分子軸方向 d に対して±10°以内であることが好ましい。さらに、ストライプテクスチャーの平均長手方向入と、スメクチック層法線方向 n とが5°以上ずれていることが好ましい。

【0088】さらに、高コントラストを得るためにには、後述する実施例で述べるX線回折測定によって測定される液晶の層傾斜角 δ (カイラルスメクチックC相の層法線と基板法線とのなす角)が10°以上、35°以内であり、また液晶の素子内での層傾斜角 δ に関し、X線回折測定によって得られた液晶セルのX線回折ピークの半値幅が3°以上であることが好ましい。

【0089】一方、パネル全面で均一な配向状態を得るための他の手段としては、配向膜が与える配向規制力を相対的に弱くすることだけでなく、例えば同等の配向規制力を有する液晶素子においても、層法線方向を一方向に均一化させるための手段として、Ch-SmC*相転移の際、又はI相(I SO.)-SmC*相転移の際に一対の基板間に印加される正負いずれかのDC電圧、即ち既述した図5に示す V_x 及び- V_x の値を、調整することによっても実現し得る。

【0090】なお、我々の検討においては印加するDC電圧の値を大きくすると、液晶分子のダイレクタ方向の一様性が増すためにカイラルスメクチックC相に転移して形成された層の傾斜角の均一性が増し、結果として閾値の異なる複数の微少領域であるマイクロドメインのサイズが大きくなる。

【0091】そして、このようにマイクロドメインのサイズが大きくなると、印加するDC電圧の値に応じて変化するマイクロドメインの面積の総和に応じて行われる画素ごとの階調表示にばらつきが生じ、画質の低下をもたらす傾向にあることが判明した。

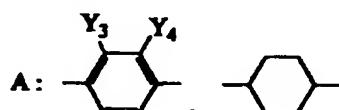
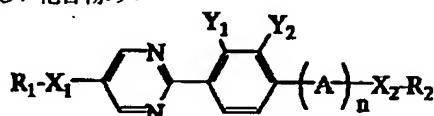
【0092】そこで、画素ごとのばらつきが生じないマイクロドメインのサイズについて検討したところ、真円ではなく梢円もしくは長方形的な形状を有しているマイクロドメインの最小単位の短径が10μm以下である場合、階調表示が連続階調であると視認されることが判明し、これによりドメインの存在による画素ごとの階調ばらつきが生じないことがわかった。したがって、前記ドメインサイズになるよう印加するDC電圧の値を適宜調整することが望ましい。

【0093】一方、印加するDC電圧の値を極端に小さくすると、層法線方向を一方向に均一化させることができなくなり、表示素子としての特性を満たし得なくなるので、好ましくは、それぞれの液晶素子において層法線方向を一方向に均一化し得る最小限の電圧を印加することが望ましい。

【0094】また、本発明に用いられるカイラルスメクチック液晶は相転移系列が、高温側より、等方性液体相

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(ISO.)-コレステリック相 (Ch)-カイラス
メクチックC相又は等方性液体相 (ISO.)-カイラ
ルスメクチックC相であるものが好ましい。以下に本發
明で用いられる液晶組成物を構成する好ましい化合物の*



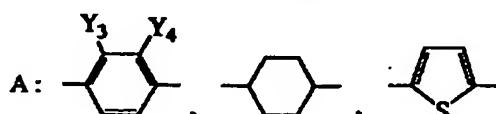
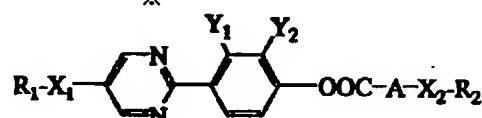
R1, R2: 炭素原子数が1~20である置換基を有し
ていてもよい直鎖または分岐状のアルキル基
X1, X2: 単結合、O、COO、OOC
Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4: HまたはF

※ n: 0または1

【0095】

【化1】

※

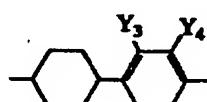
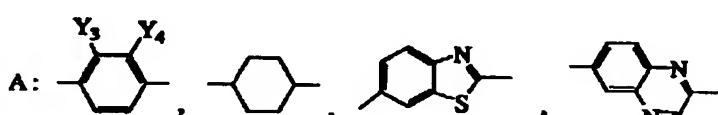
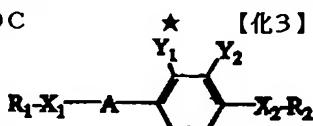


R1, R2: 炭素原子数が1~20である置換基を有し
ていてもよい直鎖または分岐状のアルキル基
X1, X2: 単結合、O、COO、OOC

★Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4: HまたはF

【0097】

【化2】



R1, R2: 炭素原子数が1~20である置換基を有し
ていてもよい直鎖または分岐状のアルキル基

★X1, X2: 単結合、O、COO、OOC

X1, X2: 単結合、O、COO、OOC

40 Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4: HまたはF

Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4: HまたはF

以下、本実施の形態の実施例について説明する。

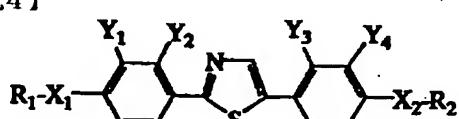
【0098】

【0099】(実施例1)

(液晶セルの作製) 透明電極として700ÅのITO膜を形成した厚さ1.1mmの一対のガラス基板を用意した。該基板の透明電極上に、市販のTFT用配向膜SE7992(日産化学社製)をスピンドルコート法により塗布し、その後、80°C 5分間の前乾燥を行なった後、20°Cで1時間加熱焼成を施し、膜厚50Åのポリイミド被膜を得た。

R1, R2: 炭素原子数が1~20である置換基を有し
ていてもよい直鎖または分岐状のアルキル基

☆50 【0100】 続いて、当該基板上のポリイミド膜に対し



17

て一軸配向処理としてナイロン布によるラビング処理を施した。ラビング処理の条件は、径10cmのロールにナイロン(NF-77/帝人製)を貼り合わせたラビングロールを用い、押し込み量0.3mm、送り速度10cm/sec、回転数1000rpm、送り回数4回とした。

【0101】統いて、一方の基板上にスペーサとして、平均粒径1.5μmのシリカビーズを散布し、各基板のラビング処理方向が互いに反平行(アンチパラレル)となるよう対向させ、均一なセルギャップのセル(単画素の空セル)を得た。

【0102】次に、この液晶セルの配向規制力を相対的に評価するために、液晶として一軸配向性が弱いと思われるISO-SmA-SmC*という相系列を有する液晶を等方相の温度で注入し、カイラルスマクティック液晶相を示す温度まで冷却して液晶素子を作成し、室温における配向状態を観察したところ、良好な一軸配向性は得られていなかった。

【0103】(アクティブマトリクスセルの作製)上記同様の材料及び条件の透明電極、ポリイミド配向膜を用い、一方の基板をゲート絶縁膜として塗化シリコン膜を備えたa-Si TFTを有するアクティブマトリクス基板とし、一方の基板にR.G.Bのカラーフィルターを有し、図3に示す画素構造のアクティブマトリクスセル(パネル)を作製した。なお、画面サイズは10.4インチ、画素数は800×600×RGBとした。

【0104】(液晶組成物の調製)下記液晶性化合物を混合して液晶組成物LC-1を調製した。なお、構造式に併記した数値は混合の際の重量比率である。

【0105】

【化5】

86.3

*

61.2

ISO → Ch

自発分極(30°C): Ps = 2.9nC/cm²

コーン角(30°C): Θ = 23.3° (100Hz, ±12.5V, Cell gap = 1.4μm)

カイラルスマクティックC相の層方両と基板法線とのなす層傾斜角δ(30°C): 21.6°

SmC*相でのらせんピッチ(30°C): 20μm以上
上記のプロセスで作製した単画素のセル及びアクティブマトリクスセルに上記液晶組成物LC-1をCh相の温度で注入し、液晶をカイラルスマクティック液晶相を示す温度まで冷却し、この冷却の際、Ch-SmC*相転移前後において、-5Vのオフセット電圧(直流電圧)を印加して冷却を行う処理を施し、液晶素子サンプルA、Bを作製した。

【0107】かかる液晶素子サンプルA、Bについて、下記の項目についての評価を行った。

【0108】1. 配向状態

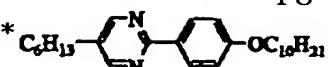
液晶素子サンプルAの液晶の配向状態について偏光顕微

10

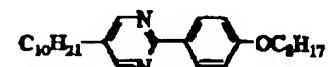
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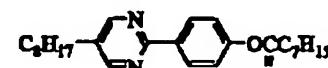
40



11.55



11.55



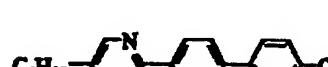
7.70



7.70



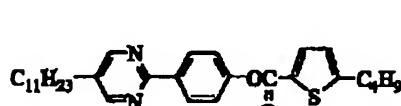
7.70



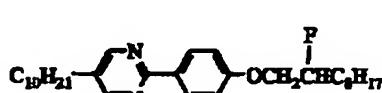
9.90



9.90



30.0



4.00

上記液晶組成物LC-1の物性パラメータを以下に示す。

【0106】相転移温度(°C)

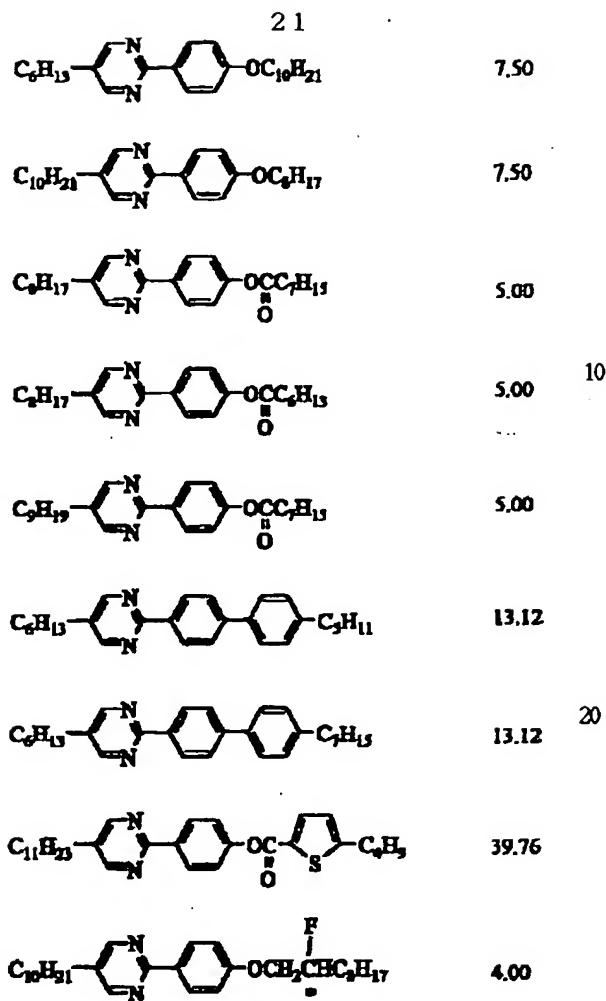
-7.2

※鏡観察を行なった。

【0109】その結果、室温(30°C)では、電圧無印加でセル全面でストライプ状のテクスチャーが形成されていることが分かった。このストライプテクスチャーの平均長手方向と、一軸配向処理方向とがなす角を測定すると約3°であった。また、それぞれのストライプテクスチャーについてさらに詳細な観察を行なったところ、それぞれのストライプ状の領域で最暗軸が微妙に異なっており、最暗軸の分布としては約4°の幅を持って存在していることがわかった。また、層法線方向はセル全面で一方向にそろっていた。

【0110】2. 矩形波印加による光学応答

液晶素子サンプルAについて、該サンプルAをクロスニコル下でフォトマルチプライヤー付き偏光顕微鏡に、偏光軸を電圧無印加状態で暗視野となるように配置し、60Hz(±5V)の矩形波電圧を印加して電圧を変化させながら光学レベルを測定した。



96.7
ISO → Ch

自発分極 (30°C) : $P_s = 3.4 \text{ nC/cm}^2$
 コーン角 (30°C) : $\Theta = 24.7^\circ$ (100Hz, $\pm 12.5^\circ$, Cell gap = 1.4 μm)
 傾斜角 δ (30°C) : 16.5°
 SmC*相でのらせんピッチ (30°C) : 20 μm 以上
 これら液晶素子サンプルE, Fについて実施例1と同様の評価を行った。

【0130】1. 配向狀態

液晶素子サンプルEの液晶の配向状態について偏光顕微鏡観察を行なった。その結果、室温(20°C)では、電圧無印加でセル全面でストライプ状のテクスチャーが形成されていることが分かった。このストライプテクスチャーの平均長手方向と、一軸配向処理方向とがなす角を測定すると約3°であった。また、それぞれのストライプテクスチャーについてさらに詳細な観察を行なったところ、それぞれのストライプ状の領域で最暗軸が微妙に異なっており、最暗軸の分布としては約3°の幅を持つて存在していることがわかった。また、層法線方向はセル全面で一方向にそろっていた。

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※【0131】また、既述した液晶素子Aと比較してS t a t i c (電圧無印加の状態)で光漏れの原因となる点欠陥(層の傾斜角が異なる領域の接合部と考えられる)が非常に少ない。

【0132】2. 矩形波印加による半導体応答

液晶素子サンプルEについて、実施例1と同様の測定をしたところ、正極性の電圧を印加すると白状態へと分子が反転した複数の微少領域が出現し、その後印加電圧を徐々に大きくしていくと、これらの微少領域の面積が徐々に増加していくことが観察された。

【0133】この微少領域についてさらに詳細に観察を行なったところ、その微少領域の大きさは約2~3μmであることが観察された。さらに、光学応答は前状態には依存せずに安定した中間調状態が得られることが確認できた。また、負極性の電圧に対しても同じ電圧絶対値の正極性電圧印加の場合の1/10程度の光学応答が確認され、正負の電圧に対する光学応答の平均値は前状態には依存せず安定した中間調が得られることが確認で

【0134】さらに、連続して矩形波駆動を行った際、ストライプテクスチャーが変化しないことから、この配向の安定性を確認できた。なお、矩形波±5V印加した際のコントラストは140以上(10~50°C)であり、良好な画質を表示できる。

【0135】3. 層の傾斜角の測定

(X線測定用セルの作製) 次に、この液晶素子サンプルEにおける液晶のスメクチック層の傾斜角δのX線回折測定を行なった。なお、基板としてX線の吸収を極力低減するために80μm厚ガラス(コーニング社製商品名マイクロシート)を用いた以外は、基本的には前述と同様の方法によりX線測定用セルを作製した。

・層の傾斜角の測定

基本的にはクラークやラガーウォルによって発表された方法(Japan Display 86, Sep. 30~Oct. 2, 1986, pp. 456~458)あるいは大内らの方法(J. J. A. P., 27(5) (1988) pp. L725~728)と同様の方法を用いた。

【0136】また、測定装置は回転対陰極方式のMACサイエンス社製X線回折装置を用い、銅のKα線を分析線とした。液晶の層間隔の測定はバルク液晶を80μm厚のガラス上に塗り、通常の粉末X線回折と同様に2θ/θスキャンを行なって求めた。

【0137】先に作製したX線測定用セルに液晶組成物LC-2を等方相の温度で注入し、Ch-SmC*相転移時にDCオフセット(-5V)を印加しながら室温(20°C)まで徐冷することにより液晶素子を作製した。

【0138】その後、前記層間隔を得た回折角2θにX線検出器をあわせてセルをθスキャンし、前記文献に示された方法で室温(30°C)における傾斜角δを算出した。その結果、半値幅が6°の強度の弱いプロードなピークが観測された。このことにより、液晶組成物LC-2は反平行ラビングセル中において、層の傾斜角δが14°の斜めブックシェルフ構造を取っており、かつ、ピーク強度も弱くプロードなことから層の均一性は小さく様々な層傾斜角を有する層が混在しているものと思われる。なお、図7にこの測定結果を示す。

【0139】4. 動画質評価

実施例1と同様に理想的な動画像が得られた。上記の5段階評価では5のレベルであった。

【0140】次に、比較例について説明する。

【0141】(比較例1)

(液晶セルの作製) 実施例1と同様にして空セル、アクティブマトリクスセルを作製し、LC-1をCh相で注入し、オフセット電圧印加冷却処理における直流電圧を-10Vで行い、液晶素子サンプルG及びHを得た。

【0142】これら液晶素子サンプルG及びHについて実施例1と同様の評価を行った。

【0143】1. 配向状態

液晶素子サンプルGについて、室温(30°C)では明瞭な欠陥線によって隔てられる二領域(C1配向とC2配向)が観察された。この二領域は、最暗軸がラビング方向と若干ずれた状態であり、それぞれの最暗位が僅かに異なる。しかし、この状態で矩形波を印加すると、二領域の境界から周辺にわたり、一瞬で新たな配向へ変化する。この部分の最暗位が、矩形波印加前に観察される二領域とずれるため、コントラストの劣化が起こる。

【0144】2. 矩形波印加による光学応答

液晶素子サンプルGについて、実施例1と同様に60Hzの矩形波を印加して電圧を変化させながら光学応答特性を測定した。

【0145】その結果、セル全体の光学応答を観測すると、実施例1と同様に正極性の電圧には十分に光学応答し、また、負極性の電圧に対しては同じ電圧絶対値の正極性電圧印加の場合の1/10程度の光学応答が確認された。一方、C1配向、C2配向を個別に観測してみると、C2配向部分の方が同じ透過光量を得るために必要電圧値が低く画素ごとにムラが生じてしまっていることが分かった。

【0146】3. 動画質評価

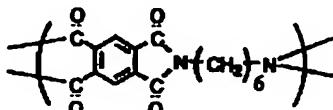
液晶素子サンプルHについて、実施例1と同様(60Hz駆動とフレーム分割駆動による120Hz駆動)にアクティブマトリクス駆動における動画質の評価を行った。周辺ぼけ度合いを主観評価すると、5段階評価カテゴリーで4であった。しかし、表示画像が全体的に白っぽく、コントラストの悪さが目立った。

【0147】(比較例2)

(液晶セルの作製) 透明電極として700ÅのITO膜を形成した厚さ1.1mmの一対のガラス基板を用意した。該基板の透明電極上に、下記構造式のポリイミド前駆体をスピンドルコート法により塗布し、その後、80°C5分間の前乾燥を行なった後、200°Cで1時間加熱焼成を施し膜厚50Åのポリイミド被膜を得た。

【0148】

【化7】



続いて、当該基板上のポリイミド膜に対して一軸配向処理としてナイロン布によるラビング処理を施した。ラビング処理の条件は、径10cmのロールにナイロン(NF-777/帝人製)を貼り合わせたラビングロールを用い、押し込み量0.3mm、送り速度10cm/sec、回転数1000rpm、送り回数4回とした。

【0149】続いて、一方の基板上にスペーサとして、平均粒径1.4μmのシリカビーズを散布し、各基板のラビング処理方向が互いに平行(パラレル)となるよう

に対向させ、均一なセルギャップのセル（単画素の空セル）を得た。

【0150】なお、この液晶セルの配向規制力を相対的に評価するために、実施例1と同様に液晶として一軸配向性が弱いと思われるISO-SmA-SmC*という相系列を有する液晶を等方相の温度で注入し、カイラルスマクティック液晶相を示す温度まで冷却して液晶素子を作成し、室温における配向状態を観察したところ、良好な一軸配向性を示していることが観察された。比較例2で用いられたセルは、実施例1で用いられたセルと比較して相対的に配向規制力が強くなっているものと思われる。

【0151】（アクティブマトリクスセルの作製）上記同様の材料、及び条件の透明電極、ポリイミド配向膜を用い、一方の基板をゲート絶縁膜として塗化シリコン膜を備えたa-Si TFTを有するアクティブマトリクス基板とし、一方の基板にR, G, Bのカラーフィルターを有し、図3に示す画素構造のアクティブマトリクスセル（パネル）を作製した。なお、画面サイズは10.4インチ、画素数は800×600とした。

【0152】これら単画素セル及びアクティブマトリクスパネルの夫々に液晶組成物LC-1をCh相の温度で注入し、液晶をカイラルスマクティック液晶相を示す温度まで冷却し、この冷却の際、Ch-SmC*相転移前後において-2Vのオフセット（直流）電圧を印加して冷却を行う処理を施し、液晶素子サンプルI及びJを得た。

【0153】これら液晶素子サンプルI及びJについて実施例1と同様の評価を行った。

【0154】1. 配向状態

液晶素子サンプルIについて、室温（30°C）では最暗軸がラビング方向と若干ずれた状態であり、最暗軸はほぼ一方向に揃っているが、層の傾斜の異なる2領域が観測された。この状態で矩形波を印加すると、2領域の境界から周辺にわたり、一瞬で新たな配向へ変化する。この部分の最暗位が、矩形波印加前に観察される2領域とずれるため、コントラストの劣化が起こる。

【0155】2. 矩形波印加による光学応答

液晶素子サンプルIについて、実施例1と同様に60Hzの矩形波を印加して電圧を変化させながら光学応答特性を測定した。

【0156】その結果、セル全体の光学応答を観測すると、実施例1と同様に正極性の電圧には十分に光学応答し、また、負極性の電圧に対しては同じ電圧絶対値の正極性電圧印加の場合の1/10程度の光学応答が確認さ

れた。しかしながら層の傾斜の異なる2領域では同じ透過光量を得るための必要電圧が異なり、画素ごとにむらが生じていることが分かった。

【0157】3. 動画質評価

液晶素子サンプルJについて、実施例1と同様（60Hz駆動とフレーム分割駆動による120Hz駆動）にアクティブマトリクス駆動における動画質の評価を行った。その結果、周辺ぼけが全く感じられない動画像が観測された。この周辺ぼけ度合いを主観評価すると、5段階評価カテゴリーで5であった。しかし、表示画像が全体的に白っぽく、コントラストの悪さが目立った。

【0158】

【発明の効果】以上説明したように本発明のように、カイラルスマクティック液晶がストライプテクスチャーを形成した配向状態となるよう一軸配向処理又は電圧制御を行うことにより、高速応答や階調制御が可能であるばかりでなく、配向が安定で且つ高いコントラストの液晶素子及びこれを備えた液晶装置を提供することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

20 【図1】本発明の実施の形態に係る液晶素子を備えた液晶装置の構造を示す断面図。

【図2】上記液晶素子の一方の基板の構成を模式的に示す図。

【図3】上記一方の基板の画素部分の断面構造を示す図。

【図4】上記画素部分の等価回路図。

【図5】上記画素部分に印加される駆動信号及び光学特性を示す図。

30 【図6】上記液晶素子に用いられる液晶のストライプテクスチャー模式図。

【図7】上記液晶の層傾斜角の測定結果を示す図。

【符号の説明】

20 アクティブマトリクス基板

40 対向基板

43a, 43b 配向膜

49 液晶層

80 液晶素子

81a, 81b 基板

85 液晶

40 87a, 87b 偏光板

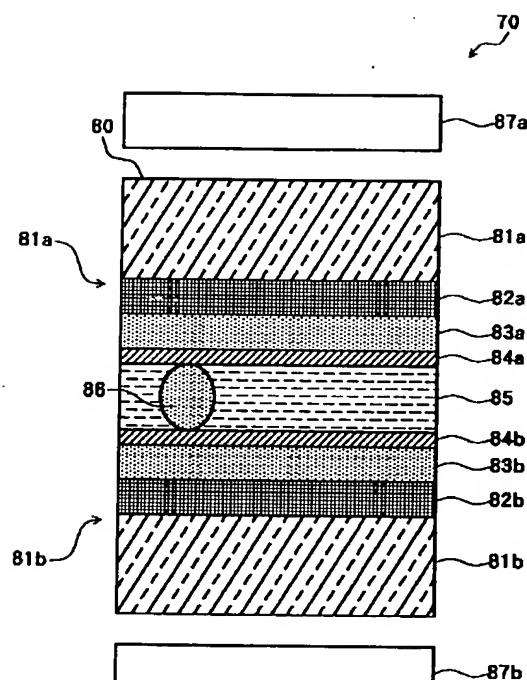
82a, 82b 電極

84a, 84b 配向制御膜

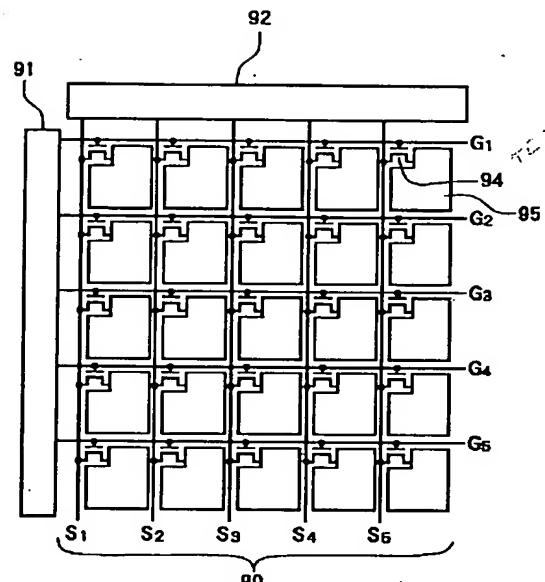
94 TFT

95 画素電極

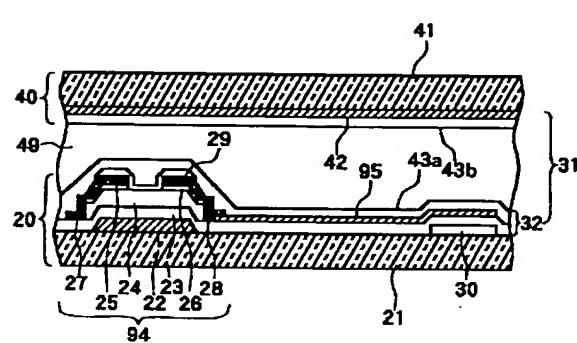
〔図1〕



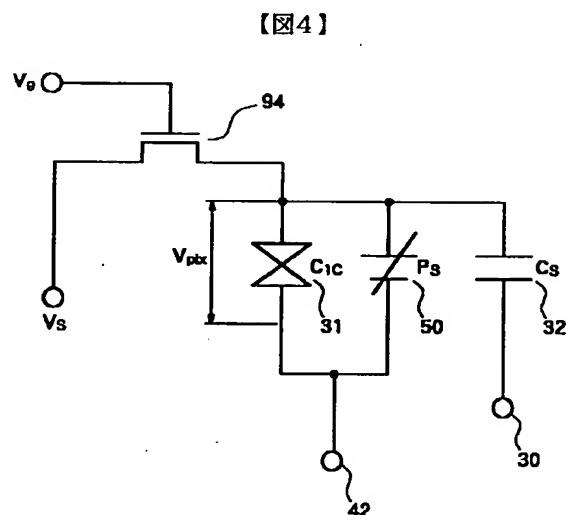
【图2】



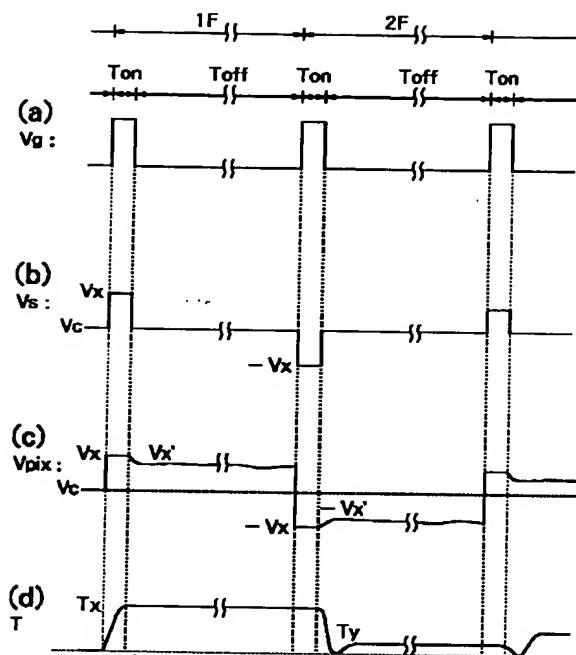
【図3】



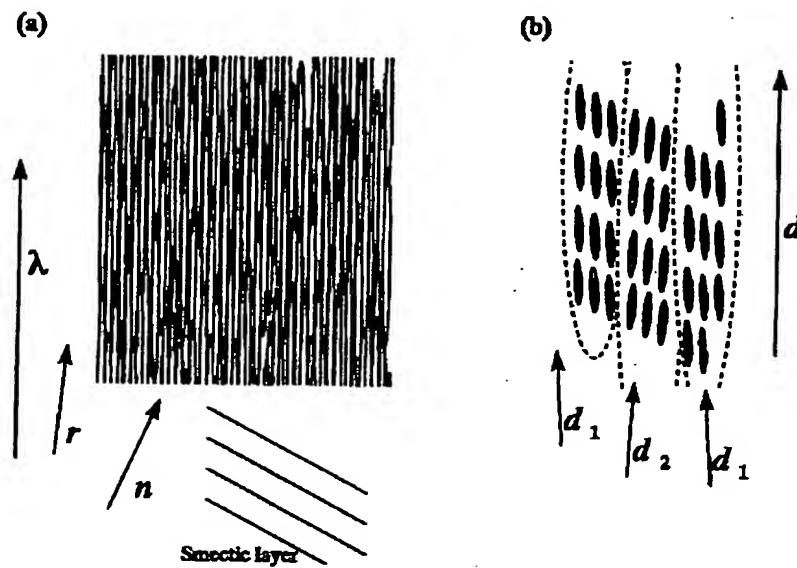
〔図7〕



【図5】



【図6】



フロントページの続き

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